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OUT POST DUTIES

BY LORD FREDERICK

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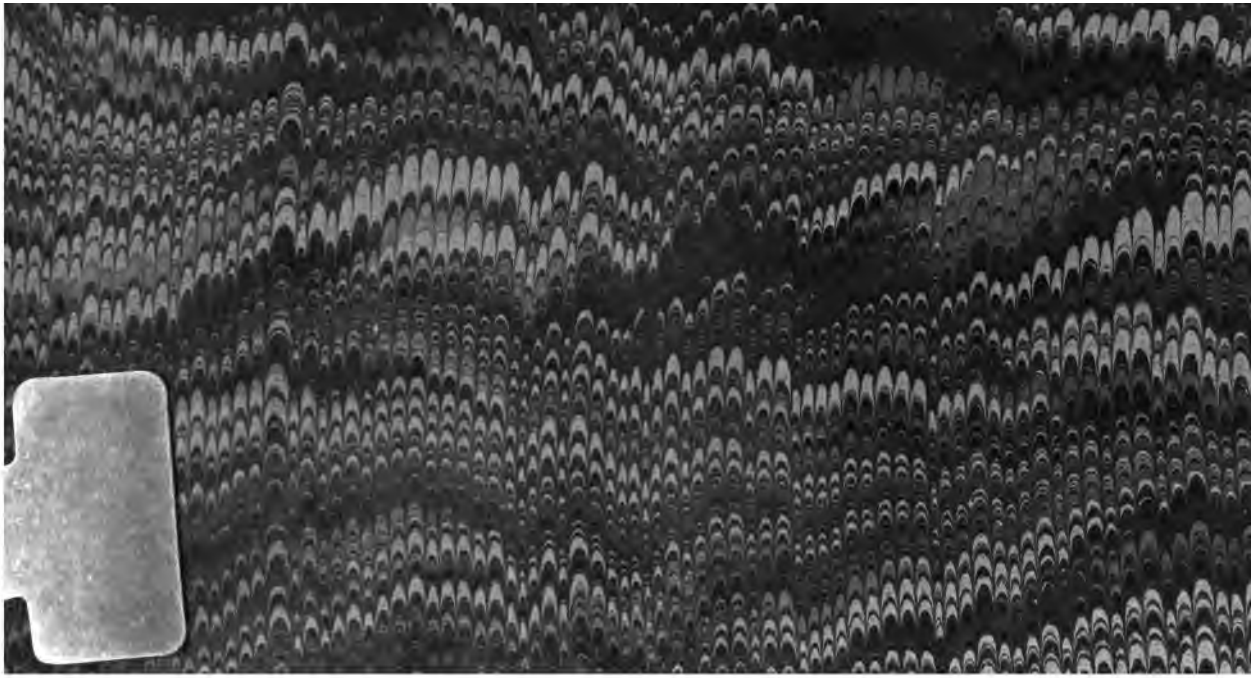

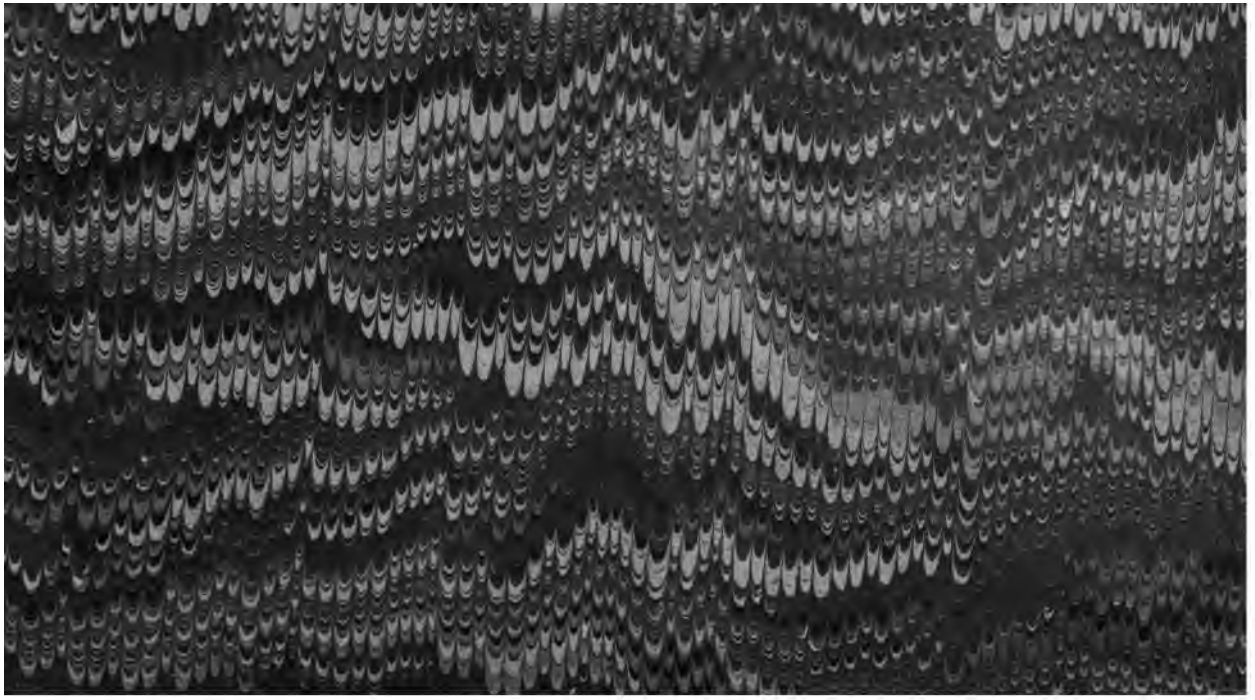

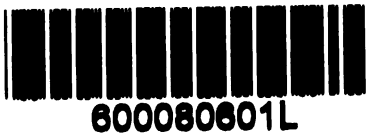
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MANUAL

OF

OUT-POST DUTIES.

By LIEUT.-GENERAL

LORD FREDERICK FITZCLARENCE, G.C.H.,

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE PRESIDENCY OF BOMBAY,
AND COLONEL OF THE 36TH REGIMENT.

TO WHICH ARE PREFIXED

EXTRACTS FROM GENERAL ORDERS,

SHOWING THE DISPOSITION OF

FIELD MARSHAL THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S OUT-POSTS
FROM 1810 TO 1814.

SECOND EDITION.

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As the present edition of Lieutenant-General Lord Frederick FitzClarence's Manual of Out-post Duties is considerably reduced in size and price, the Publishers deem it necessary to explain that the work still contains, in an unabridged form, the General Orders, Instructions, Reports, &c., together with all the engraved plans, relating to Out-post Duties, that appeared in the original edition.

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THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S

ORDERS FOR HIS OUT-POSTS,

FROM 1810 TO 1814*.

"Busaco, 22nd September, 1810.

"A strong Picquet from the latter body of troops is to be posted on the eastern side of the Sierra, near St. Antonio de Cantaro; and a Picquet of communication is to be placed upon the top of the Sierra, where the road crosses it."

"Sierra of Busaco, 26th September, 1810.

"[CIRCULAR.] The camp kettles and the meat are to be immediately sent for, and the troops are to cook as soon as they arrive. Such Regiments as can find means of doing so at hand, may make huts. Picquets are to be thrown out along the front, and a connection to be established between those of contiguous divisions. A line of communication, by means of small posts, is also to be established along the position itself, for the purpose of insuring the prompt circulation of orders during the night. The General Officers commanding divisions will be so good as report to the Quarter-Master-General the place where each will be stationed

---

* Extracted from SIR GEORGE MURRAY'S *Memoirs of the War in Spain and France*.

during the night. The whole of the troops are to be under arms at their respective stations on the position, at half an hour before day-break to-morrow morning.

"G. MURRAY, Q. M. G."

"Celorico, 28th March, 1811.

"The troops under Colonel Wilson will occupy Pinhel, and throw forward their Out-posts in the direction of Almeida. Colonel Wilson will connect his troops with those of Colonel Trant, by the bridge over the Coa, between Pinhel and Villa Torpin, if the enemy is not in a situation to hinder that communication; but if he is, it is to be established by the ford of Porto de Vide.

"Colonel Barbaçena will occupy Carvalhal, Atalaya, and neighbouring villages upon the left bank of the Pinhel river; and will push forward his Out-posts and Patrols towards the oa, as far as the situation and force of the enemy permit, particularly in the direction of Almeida, Castello Bom, and Castello Mendo.

"Colonel Barbaçena will communicate with Colonel Wilson upon the left, and will send a party of dragoons to the village of Parada, near Serdeira, to keep up his communication with the right of the Army.

"The 1st division will march from Alverca, &c., by Pinzio, to Parada, Serdeira, Miuselha, and adjacents. It will occupy Seixo upon the right, and Porto de Velha upon the left; placing Picquets along the left bank of the Coa, between those two points, and taking possession of the bridge of Sequeiros. If, however, the enemy should be in too great force upon the Coa to admit of the above arrangements being complied with

Sir Brent Spencer will place the 1st division upon the Naouemé rivulet, in the neighbourhood of Serdeira, establishing Out-posts in the direction of Ponte de Sequeiros, and also on the left from Parada towards Castello Mendo.

"The 6th division will move through Guarda, and thence by Marmaleira, towards Rapoulha de Coa. M.-General Campbell will occupy Rapoulha de Coa, and will place Picquets along the left bank of the Coa, communicating on the left flank with the Picquets of the 1st Division, and on the right flank with those of the right column of the army. But should the enemy be too much in force upon the Coa to admit of the above arrangement, Major-General Campbell will halt his division at Martin de Pega, on the Rio dos Bois.

"G. MURRAY, Q. M. G."

"Hill of San Christoval, 2nd May, 1811.

"It does not appear probable that the enemy's army will advance farther to-day than to the bridge between the Azava and the rivulet of Espeja. Sir Stapleton Cotton will be so good, therefore, as to place the cavalry in the country between the Espeja rivulet and Fuentes d'Onoro. Colonel Beckwith's brigade of the Light Division is to be in the woods on the right of the cavalry, and the remainder of the Division in the woods on the left of the cavalry. Colonel Beckwith will endeavour to keep a Picquet on the hill of San Christoval, and he will have a post at Quinta d'Aguilar, to enable him to communicate with Navé d'Avér, and with Poza Velho. The left of the Light Division will, in like manner, put itself in communication with

the infantry of the 5th Division, which occupies the village of Alameda, and also with the troops at Fuentes d'Onoro.

"Sir Stapleton Cotton will continue to keep small posts of observation at Puebla d'Azava and towards Fuenté Guinaldo; and will cause reports to be made from the posts in the latter direction to the Officer commanding at Navé d'Avér, as well as to himself. He will also make arrangements for being in direct communication with the Officer commanding at Fuentes d'Onoro, to which place any further orders there may be for the cavalry, or for the Light Division, will be transmitted.

"G. MURRAY, Q. M. G."

"Heights above Fuentes d'Onoro, 3rd May, 1811.

"The several divisions will throw out Picquets along the ravine of the Dos Casas rivulet.

"These Picquets are to communicate with each other, and are to form a connected chain along the whole line of the front of the army.

"Sir William Erskine will push his look-out posts to a considerable distance beyond the left flank of the army; and he will put himself in communication likewise with Brigadier-General Pack, through Val de la Mula.

"Major-General Houstoun will push forward strong Picquets into the wood between Fuentes d'Onoro and Pozo Velho, which latter place he will occupy in considerable strength.

"Sir Stapleton Cotton will support the infantry Picquets by posts of cavalry where the ground is open,

and he will also put himself in communication with Don Julian Sanchez, who is at Navé d'Avér.

"A complete line of connected posts is to be established, likewise, along the whole of the ridge which forms the position now occupied by the troops, that orders may be passed, with certainty and with rapidity, from one division to another, even during the night.

"The whole of the troops are to be under arms half an hour before day-break to-morrow morning.

"G. MURRAY, Q. M. G."

"Lizaso, 27th July, 1813.

"The 7th Division will march also to the vicinity of Lizaso. But Lord Dalhousie will leave a post of observation in the passes, and Colonel Arentschildt will leave a few hussars with that post to bring reports from it.

"The 1st Hussars will send a small party under an Officer to the village of Lecumberri, on the great road between Tolosa and Pamplona.

"This party is stationed there to keep up the communication between the right and left of the army. The Officer commanding it will put himself in communication as soon as possible with Major-General C. Alten, at Zubieta, and report his having done so.

"G. MURRAY, Q. M. G."

"Heights above Villaba, 29th July, 1813.

"Posts of observation should be kept on the most commanding hills all day, and should be again on the look out as soon as there is light in the morning.

"G. MURRAY, Q. M. G."

"Lezaca, 6th August, 1813.

"The Condé de la Bisbal has been informed that it is Lord Wellington's intention that he should arrange with your lordship what share of the Out-post Duties the troops of each are to take upon that part of the line which lies between the posts of the division occupying the Puerto de Maya and the Light Division.

"G. MURRAY, Q. M. G."

"Lezaca, 10th August, 1813.

"The 7th Division is on your left between the Puerto de Maya and the Puerto de Echalar. Copy of a memorandum respecting the connection of the Out-posts of that division with those of the troops in the Puerto de Maya, and also respecting the direct line of communication with Echalar, is enclosed for your information.

"Lord Wellington considers it essential that the division which occupies the Puerto de Maya should have a Picquet in the village of Urdax.

"G, MURRAY, Q. M. G."

"Vera, 27th October, 1813.

"The Out-posts of the Light Division at the foot of the pass of Vera, and those of Brigadier Longa's troops, are to remain at their station, until otherwise instructed.

"Sir John Hope will place an Officer's detachment of cavalry in the neighbourhood of Jolimont, near the bottom of the hill by which the road goes through Brigadier Longa's present encampment to the village of Vera. This detachment is intended to keep up the

communication with the centre of the army, in the first instance through Vera, and afterwards, by Ascain, should that communication become open.

"G. MURRAY, Q. M. G."

"St. Jean de Luz, 18th December, 1813.

"Two brigades of that cavalry (Major-General Alten's and Major-General Lord Edward Somerset's) are to observe the country beyond Hasparren, towards St. Jean Pied de Port and towards St. Palais. These two brigades will be supported by the 3rd Division of infantry, which will move to morrow to Urcaray, Hasparren, and adjacents, for that purpose, and which will act in concert with the cavalry, as may be requisite.

"Sir Stapleton Cotton will be so good as to arrange his posts upon the right in such manner as to be in communication with the division of Spanish infantry, which is cantoned at Itsassu, for the purpose of watching the debouches from the upper part of the valley of the Nive. Sir Stapleton Cotton will be pleased to apprize Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill, and also Marshal Beresford, of any movement of importance made by the enemy in the country beyond Hasparren; and he will send separate reports to head quarters also by the most direct route.

"The whole of the cavalry duties in the country between the river Nive and the sea will be done by Major-General Vandeleur's brigade. General Vandeleur will therefore send a detachment to Arrauntz, with instructions to report to Lieutenant-General Sir Lowry Cole, and another to Arcangues, which is to report to Major-General Charles Alten.

"G. MURRAY, Q.M.G."

"St. Sever, 7th March, 1814.

"Major-General Vandeleur's brigade will also furnish two squadrons of cavalry, which will be directed to move towards Bordeaux, by the route of Les Grandes Landes.

"The Commanding Officer of these two squadrons will be instructed to endeavour to push forward his patrols into the neighbourhood of Bordeaux on the 11th and 12th. He will be directed also to endeavour to establish a communication from La Bouhere, and from Belin, or Beliel, in Les Grandes Landes, with Roquefort and with Bazas. The cavalry stationed at the two last mentioned places should, therefore, have orders to endeavour, from their side also, to communicate with La Bouhere and with Belin.

"Marshal Beresford is authorised to order forward the two squadrons of Major-General Vandeleur's brigade to Bordeaux, should he find it expedient to do so; and he will also give them instructions to return to their brigade when he thinks proper.

"G. MURRAY, Q. M. G."

"Galan, March 22nd, 1814.

"One squadron of Colonel Vivian's brigade will turn off at Castelnau, and proceed to Masseube, from whence a patrol is to be sent forward to Auch, and the report of that patrol is to be transmitted to the Quarter-Master-General, at Boulogne.

"Sir Stapleton Cotton will be so good as to order one squadron of cavalry to move from Boulogne upon Ville Franche and Simorre, and to be in communication with the cavalry in the neighbourhood of La Barthe.

Sir Stapleton Cotton will be so good as have cavalry posts at St. Frajon and at St. Laurens.

"G. MURRAY, Q. M. G."

"Boulogne, March 23rd, 1814.

"Sir Stapleton Cotton will move forward the hussars, and Major-General Ponsonby's brigade of cavalry, beyond Lombes, in the direction of Bragairac, St. Foy, and St. Lys, so as to have his advance in these latter places.

"Sir Stapleton Cotton will be so good as send patrols at the same time towards Gimont and L'Isle en Jourdain, and will likewise push patrols into the country on the right of his line of march.

"The 4th Division, and Colonel Vivian's brigade of cavalry, will follow the same route, and close up towards the 6th Division.

"Colonel Vivian will be so good as establish a post of cavalry at or near Montpezat, and send patrols into the country on the right of the line of march.

"Lieutenant-Colonel Bulow, will be so good as canton part of the cavalry brigade (Bock's) in St. Frajon, and have a post at Cassaignebere. This brigade will also send patrols to Aurignac, and in the direction of Fousseret.

"G. MURRAY, Q. M. G."

"L'Isle en Dodon, March 24th, 1814.

"A squadron of Major-General Bock's brigade of cavalry will move to-morrow from St. Frajon towards La Bastide des Feuillans, to keep up the communication of the centre of the army with the column.

"G. MURRAY, Q. M. G."

Arrangement for the Movement of the Army.

"25th March, 1814.

"Sir Stapleton Cotton will close up the hussars and Major-General Ponsonby's brigade, of cavalry to the neighbourhood of St. Lys and St. Foy, and will send patrols towards Toulouse, by Plaisance du Touch, also towards Noé and Muret on the right and on the Auch road, upon the left.

"The Light Division and Major-General Bock's brigade of cavalry will move to the neighbourhood of Samatan, except one squadron of Major-General Bock's brigade, which will move from St. Frajon towards La Bastide des Feuillons, and establish a communication on its right with the cavalry of Sir Rowland Hill's column, and on its left with the cavalry posts at Montpezat and at Rieumes.

"G. MURRAY, Q. M. G."

"Portet, 28th March, 1814.

"The hussar brigade will do the Out-post duties in front of the Light and 3d Divisions, and as far to the left as the Auch road.

"The troops under Sir Rowland Hill will lie at Portet, Muret, Villeneuve, Frousins, and adjacents; and the cavalry under Major-General Fane will do the Out-post duties of the right of the line

"G. MURRAY, Q. M. G."

Seysses, 1st April, 1814.

"When you have recrossed the Garronne, the pontoon bridge is to be taken up, and a flying bridge substituted in its place; it will be expedient, that you

should have a few dragoons, and a post of infantry on the right bank; the infantry detachment should keep hold of the place where the flying bridge lands, and the cavalry have a look-out a considerable way in advance.

"G. MURRAY, Q. M. G."

"To Lt.-Gen. Sir R. Hill, K.B."

"Pontoon Bridge, 5th April, 1814.

"The officer commanding the cavalry on the right bank, will send out patrols, as well towards Toulouse as on the road to Montauban, and into the country which lies beyond the Ers rivulet, and will send reports to head quarters of whatever information is obtained. It will be advisable to have strong Picquets covering the front of the troops towards Toulouse; and also to endeavour to hold the heights from which the enemy could reconnoitre, in order that he may be prevented, as much as possible, from ascertaining the amount of the force which has been passed over the river.

"G. MURRAY, Q. M. G."

INSTRUCTION, CATECHISM, REPORTS, &c.

THE following theoretical Instruction and Catechism for the purpose of teaching young Officers their duties when in command of an Out-laying Picquet, have been drawn up and deduced from the Duke of Wellington's Orders on the above duties, given out by his Grace in actual contact with the enemy, from the year 1808 to 1814, and published in Sir George Murray's "Memoirs of the War in Spain and France, from 1808 to 1814;" —from the foregoing letters of the many superior and practical Officers who have kindly honored me with their extensive information on the above subject (or on Out-post Duty);—from General Shaw Kennedy's Journal, written during one of the most interesting periods of actual Out-post Duty on record in our military annals;—from the Field Exercise Book;—and from the various publications by Officers in the British Army, whose works I beg strongly to recommend to young Officers, with a view to their becoming thoroughly acquainted with their duty in the field*.

* In drawing up the following list of practical Treatises written by British Officers on various military subjects, it has been found convenient to trace the works back from the present time in the order of the publication of the last editions.

In order to enable the young Officer to attain the knowledge of his duty, when in command of an Out-post or Picquet in front of the enemy, it is necessary he should be made first perfectly acquainted with the theory of Out-post Duties, as laid down in the general principles, from p. 296 to 320 of the *Field Exercise Book*, which should be clearly explained to him by his Commanding Officer, with the assistance of a black board, and a large map showing the general features of a country, such as the heights, roads, and course of rivers, and how any part of it could be occupied with a

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1853. Rules, chiefly deduced from Experiment, for conducting the Practical Operations of a Siege. By LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR CHARLES PASLEY, K.C.B.

1852. SINNOTT'S Military Catechism.

1852. The Artillerist's Manual and British Soldier's Compendium. By CAPTAIN GRIFFITHS, R.A.

1852. Observations on Commissariat Field Service. By COM.-GENERAL SIR RANDOLPH I. ROUTH, K.C.B.

1852. Standing Orders, as given out and enforced by the late MAJOR.-GENERAL ROBERT CRAUFURD, for the Use of the Light Division during the years 1809, 1810, and 1811.

1852. The Essentials of Good Skirmishing. By COLONEL G. GAWLER, K.H.

1851. On Outposts, Patrols, &c., &c. By MAJOR-GENERAL L. B. LOVELL, K.H.

1851. The Cavalry Catechism, or Instructions on Cavalry Exercise and Field Movements, Brigade Outpost Duties, &c. By CAPTAIN ROBBINS, late Adjutant 5th Dragoon Guards.

1851. Manual of Light Infantry and other Duties. By LIEUT. and ADJUTANT SINNOTT, 47th Regiment.

1851. The Young Officer's Companion. By COL. LORD DE ROS.

1851. COLONEL TORRENS' Familiar Lectures for the Use of Young Military Officers.

1850. The Military Catechism. By CAPTAIN JOHN SIDNEY DOYLE (Colonel North).

1850. The British Gunner. By CAPTAIN SPEARMAN.

1849. A Practical Treatise on the Duties required to be performed by Officers and Soldiers of the Army at a Siege. By LIEUT.-COLONEL JEBB, R.E.

1849. Introductory Essay to the Study of Fortification for Young Officers of the Army. By MAJOR STRAITH.

given number of men, as an Outlaying Picquet, in order to protect the part of the army to which he belongs, that it may rest in quiet and security, and not be dishonoured by surprise.

The instructions, as laid down in the *Field Exercise Book*, being thoroughly understood by the young Officer, I recommend that in order to impress them more perfectly on his mind, he should transcribe them in his own handwriting, and give them to his Commanding Officer, who will then question him in the following manner:—

1849. A System of Light Drill; or, Questions and Answers on the Rudiments of Skirmishing. By CAPTAIN T. H. MITCHELL.
1849. Details of Light Infantry Drill, with some Instruction for Patrols. By MAJOR J. P. SPARKS.
1848. Practical Treatises on the Attack and Defence of Outposts, Villages, Houses, Bridges, &c. By LIEUT.-COL. JEBB, R.E.
1848. Questions and Answers on Artillery. By MAJOR BURN, R.A.
1847. Selections from the General Orders of Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington. Compiled by COLONEL GURWOOD.
1847. A Treatise on Military Surveying. By LIEUT.-COLONEL B. JACKSON.
1845. JACKSON'S Formation, Discipline, and Economy of Armies. *Third Edition.*
1844. Instructions for Officers and Non-commissioned Officers of Cavalry on Outpost Duty. By LIEUT.-COL. VON ARENTSCHILDT.
1843. A Treatise on the Employment of Light Troops on Actual Service. By LIEUT.-COLONEL LESLIE, K.H.
1843. The Cavalry Manual. By LIEUT.-COLONEL AINSLIE.
1843. MAJOR-GENERAL ROLT on Moral Command.
1838. Thoughts on Tactics and Military Organization. By LIEUT.-COL. MITCHELL.
1836. Memoir on the Duties of Picquets. By COLONEL FITZCLARENCE, late Coldstream Guards.
1835. Recollections and Reflections relative to the Duties of Troops composing the Advanced Corps of an Army. By LIEUT.-COLONEL LEACH, C.B.
1833. Essays on Field Fortification. By LIEUT. H. FENWICK.
1827. A Treatise on the Disposition and Duties of Out-posts.

Question. What are the different parties of troops called in the British Service, as laid down in the *Field Exercise Book*, which act in front of an army, for its protection and security, when in camp or cantonments?

Answer. The *Outlaying Picquet*, its *Patrols*, and *Detached Parties*, and the *Reserve for the Picquets*—in all, *four*.

Quest. What is an Outlaying Picquet, and its object?

Ans. An outlaying Picquet is a certain number of men, under the command of a Captain or Subaltern, detached to the front of the main body of troops. Its principal duties are to secure the safety and repose of the camp or cantonments, by occupying such ground, and commanding such roads, that no part of the enemy's force can approach without being seen*.

Quest. What is the Reserve?

Ans. It is a body of troops of such force, and so placed, as to support and assist the Picquets on their being attacked, or that the Picquets can retire on if found necessary; and to impede the advance of the enemy, so as to enable the main body to get under arms†.

Quest. What is a Patrol?

Ans. As relating to an Outlaying Picquet, it is composed of a small body of men, under command of a Subaltern or Non-commissioned Officer, to be sent to the front and flanks of the Picquet, for the purpose of

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* Vide *Field Exercise Book*, p. 296.

† Ibid, p. 297.

gaining information in regard to the movements and position of the enemy that may be in their vicinity*.

Quest. On being ordered to take charge of an Outlaying Picquet with a view of covering any part of the camp or cantonment, what would be your first duty†?

Ans. To make a nominal list of the Non-commissioned Officers and men of the Picquet, and inspect their arms, ammunition, and rations‡.

Quest. How would you move the Picquet to the ground you are ordered to occupy?

Ans. I should move as an advance guard to avoid being surprised, with advanced, flank, and connecting files.

Quest. On moving to the ground you are to occupy what Observation would you make?

Ans. I should take particular notice of all roads on my flanks, and such positions that, should I be driven in, I could defend§.

Quest. What is your "*First Duty*" on arriving on the ground you are to occupy?

Ans. The ground having been pointed out to me by a Superior Officer, where my right and left flanks are to rest, I immediately guard against surprise by placing sentries in such situations that no enemy can approach my Picquet without being seen. Besides which, the advanced files of my Picquet will feel their way, and ascertain if any immediate attack is probable‖.

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* Vide *p.* 307, *Field Exercise Book*, and Colonel Short, Coldstream Guards.

† Vide Col. Leach, Gen. Lovell.

‡ Vide Col. Arentschildt.

§ Vide *Field Exercise Book.*

‖ Vide *Field Exercise Book*, Col. Leach.

Quest. What is the Second Duty after taking the foregoing precaution?

Ans. To communicate with the Officers of the Picquets on my right and left flanks*.

Quest. How do you communicate?

Ans. I take as many men as I think will be requisite to keep up a chain of sentries from my Picquet to the Picquet that I am going to communicate with, posting double sentries as I pass along, and keeping them in view; and having communicated with the Officer on my flank, or Non-commissioned Officer in charge of the flank parties, I return to my Picquet, reducing or increasing the sentries as I find requisite, and placing them in the most advantageous positions to overlook the approaches to my Picquet. My junior Officer or Serjeant having done the same on the other flank, I then, by visiting myself personally, ascertain that they have posted the sentries according to orders, and communicate with the Officer on my other flank.

Quest. When do you conceive that your Sentries are posted as they ought to be?

Ans. When they completely command every approach to the Picquet, and can see the sentries on their right and left, and are as much concealed as possible from the enemy's view†.

Quest. Should the Picquet be a flank Picquet, what precautions would you take for its security?

Ans. I should, after taking care of my *immediate* security, send out Patrols, under an Officer or Non-

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* Vide Duke of Wellington's *Orders*.

† Vide Colonel Arentschildt.

commissioned Officer, to the *unprotected flank*, which I should do every half-hour day and night.

Quest. Into how many Reliefs do you divide your Picquet? And how often do you relieve your Sentries?

Ans. Into three Reliefs of Double Sentries, and relieve them every hour, taking care to have sufficient men to patrol*.

Quest. After your communications are established with the Picquets on your flanks, and your own security from surprise ensured, what do you do?

Ans. With a Patrol I make myself thoroughly acquainted with the approaches and environs of my post; and, *if ordered to defend it*, do my best to strengthen it, by throwing up obstacles, making loop-holes should my picquet occupy a house, and in the neighbouring walls; throwing up breastworks, if I have tools, and making my defence so as to have as many cross fires as possible†.

Quest. Are the Sentries on an Outlaying Picquet posted double?

Ans. Yes, and a Communicating (single) Sentry from them to the body of the Picquet, to convey any signal or order that might come from the front.

Quest. How do you place your Sentries at night?

Ans. I generally move them from the place they occupied during the day, particularly should they have been seen by the enemy; and if they have been on a height, I move them to lower ground, in order that

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* Vide *Exercise Book.*

† Vide JEBB, *On Defence of* Out-Posts.

they may discern any object on the sky-line with greater ease than looking down they would be able to do, and place them in the most advantageous positions.

Quest. Would you increase the number of Sentries at night?

Ans. As a rule, yes, with the view of preventing the possibility of the enemy stealing in between them.

Quest. Would you increase your Sentries at any other time?

Ans. Yes, during foggy weather.

Quest. Ought you to post your Sentries thickly or not?

Ans. If possible, not; but it must depend on the nature of the ground and the state of the atmosphere. The great object should be to save my men as much as possible, always bearing in mind that every unnecessary Sentry entails additional "*duty on all his comrades.*"

Quest. When the Advanced Sentry is very near the enemy, what precautions would you take to secure his preservation?

Ans. I should place obstacles in the approaches to his post, about 30 yards in his front, as well as flanks when it is practicable to do so, such as abattis, &c., which the Sentry could see over, *and so that they may not afford shelter to the enemy,* in order to stop any sudden rush that might be made upon him. I should particularly take this precaution at night, or should the Sentry be placed at the end of a bridge where he must actually stand on the end of the defile.

Quest. Were you not to take this precaution, what might happen?

Ans. The Sentry might be suddenly overcome, and not able to fire, or give the alarm, and, consequently, the Picquet might be surprised, from being unable to get under arms in time to meet the enemy*.

Quest. Is it generally recommended that the *Advanced* Sentries should be so protected?

Ans. Yes, where practicable, for the above reasons.

Quest. When a wood is in your Front, how would you place your Sentry?

Ans. As far from the wood as would be advisable with a view of keeping as good a look out as possible, but being most particular not to endanger the Sentry from a sudden rush from the wood.

Quest. How do you ensure the body of the Picquet being instantly made acquainted with any immediate threatened approach of the enemy?

Ans. By the Communicating Sentry firing or making the preconcerted signal.

Quest. What regulates the actual position where you place the body of your Picquet?

Ans. After having ascertained the most advantageous point for posting my Advanced Sentries, I place my Picquet so as to be within hearing of the Connecting Sentries' fire, and out of sight of the enemy, and as near the centre of my line of sentries as possible†.

Quest. Do you examine the Sentries as they are relieved?

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* Vide NAPIER'S *History of the Peninsular War*, v. 3, p. 277.

† Vide ARENTSCHILDT.

Ans. Yes, in order to ascertain whether they have observed anything in their front, and, if of importance, immediately to report the circumstance to the Field Officer of the Picquets, always taking care to state in my report whether the movements, or whatever demonstration was observed, was on *our* right, or the *enemy's* left, or *vice versâ*.

Quest. On receiving Verbal Orders from your Superior, do you write them down immediately?

Ans. Yes, in order to give them over correctly to the Officer of the new Picquet that relieves me*.

Quest. Do you place the same men on the same posts during the time they are on Picquet?

Ans. Yes; and I take care to place the most intelligent men on the most important stations†.

Quest. Should a Sentry or a man from the Picquet desert, what would you do?

Ans. Immediately inform the Field Officer of the day of the circumstance, and the Officers on my right and left, and be most careful of my immediate security.

Quest. When you are permitted to have a fire for your Picquet, where would you place it?

Ans. As much out of observation as possible; and in case the Picquet should be attacked at night, I should previously point out the place for the Alarm Post on the strongest and most defensible ground, and if possible, *in rear of the fire*, in order that the enemy should be exposed themselves on coming up to it‡.

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* Vide GENERAL CRAUFURD'S *Orders for the Light Division.*

† Ibid.

‡ Vide ARENTSCHILDT.

Quest. When do you *always* get your Picquet under arms?

Ans. One hour before day-break.

Quest. How do you ensure your Sentries looking in the right direction during the dark?

Ans. By placing a piece of stick horizontally on two forked pegs in the direction of the enemy's posts. This precaution is to be taken also by the body of the Picquet *.

Quest. Under what circumstances should you retire your Picquet?

Ans. When my flanks are thoroughly threatened, unless I have orders to defend my post to the last†.

Quest. If you were forced to retire, in what direction would you fall back?

Ans. The Field Officer of the day having shown me where the Reserve is posted, I should retire upon it, firing, and disputing the ground; and on approaching the Reserve, I should order my Picquet, which would be in extended order, to place itself on its flank, and not cloud its front by our retrograde movement, so as to impede its fire on the advancing enemy.

Quest. When you hear firing on your flank or flanks, which indicates a retrograde movement of the Picquets posted there, what should you do?

Ans. I should retire, throwing myself on the flank of the advancing enemy, of course keeping my retreat open to the rear.

Quest. If after you have been relieved from your

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* Vide *Field Exercise Book.* † Ibid.

post, you hear firing in the front, what should you do?

Ans. I should immediately return, and give my support to the advanced Picquets, and send word of what I had done to the Field Officer of the day*.

Quest. You have stated that a Patrol is a body of troops varying in strength according to circumstances, sent out under command of an Officer or N.-C. Officer, to gain information regarding the enemy; how many different sorts of Patrols are laid down in the Regulations of our service?

Ans. Two. One for patrolling when the enemy is near, the other when the enemy is distant†.

Quest. What should you do previously to going out with your Patrol when the enemy is near? And how do you move?

Ans. I should inform the Officer or N.-C. Officer on my flank from whence I start, that I am going to patrol.

Quest. Do you always commence patrolling from a flank of your Picquet?

Ans. As a general rule, yes; and return by the other, passing along the front of the line of sentries, never out of their sight, if possible, during the day, nor out of hearing the report of a firelock at night, and

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* Outlaying Picquets are frequently commanded by a Field Officer, in which case they usually consist of 200 or 300 men, and are sometimes composed of both infantry and cavalry, according to the nature of the ground. I have known also a light-field piece accompany the Picquets.—*Extract of a Letter from* Col. Leach *to Lord F. Fitzclarence.*

† Vide pages 307, 8, 9, of the *Field Exercise Book.*

move as silently as possible, often halting to listen, and returning within the line of sentries to the place from whence I started.

Quest. If you meet an enemy within the line of sentries, what do you do?

Ans. Immediately fire, and continue doing so to give the alarm*.

Quest. Should a Patrol avoid firing as much as possible?

Ans. Yes; and give as little alarm as can be avoided to the Picquet†.

Quest. How should you act when ordered to patrol, the enemy being *distant?*

Ans. I should move in the direction ordered as a small Advance Guard, with feelers in front, flankers, and connecting files, the first being men chosen for their quickness of sight and hearing.

Quest. What should the advanced files and the feelers do if they hear any footsteps approaching?

Ans. They should instantly fall back to the Patrol; and if a larger body than the party to which they belong was advancing, two men should be sent back to the Picquet to give information to the Officer, who would take immediate measures accordingly.

Quest. What does the Patrol do?

Ans. It retires steadily, and if possible unobserved, on the Picquet; but if observed and overtaken, it will keep up an incessant fire to give the alarm.

Quest. Should a Patrol fire on meeting an enemy's patrol?

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* Vide *Field Exercise Book.* † Ibid.

Ans. If possible not, as it tends to alarm unnecessarily.

Quest. Who should inform the Conductors of the different Patrols the route they should take?

Ans. The Field Officer of the day, who would also inform them the distance they should patrol to the front or flanks.

Quest. Do you send out a strong Patrol just before day-break?

Ans. Yes, towards the enemy; and this Patrol must be very cautious, as this is generally the time the enemy makes his attack*.

Quest. What precaution should be taken on the return of the Patrol?

Ans. They must often look to the rear on returning, to ascertain that they are not followed, which is very frequently the case, and frequently halt to listen.

Quest. In what manner would you move a large Patrol to the front?

Ans. In the same way as an advanced guard, with advanced, connecting, and flank files†.

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* "I would also—as long as the fog continued—keep patrols frequently in motion, and with great caution, to the right, left, and front."—*Extract from a Letter addressed to Lord F. Fitzclarence by* COLONEL LEACH.

† Vide COLONEL SHORT'S *Treatise on Out-posts*, *Field Exercise Book*, COLONEL ARENTSCHILDT, LLOYD, MITCHELL.

THE young Officers having been thoroughly instructed by the Majors of Wings in the Theory of Out-post Duties as pointed out in Part V, Section 8, of the *Field Exercise Book* of the Service, and by the foregoing examination, I recommend the next instruction should be upon Plan No. I, (which should be drawn on a black board, and *enlarged* to a scale of 3 or 4 feet to the mile) which shows a piece of ground to be occupied by one company *only*, its flank being supposed to rest on, and communicate with, two companies on its right and left, at A and B.

They will then be examined, supposing, separately, themselves to have command of a company, and ordered by their Commanding Officer to take their parties to the front, to act as an outlaying picquet; describing with chalk on the board, their line and order of march, the placing their sentinels on arriving on the ground, their own line of movement when going to the right or left to communicate with the Officers on their flanks; and indicating the places where they would post their sentries, and the route of their patrols, and giving reasons for so doing, according to Part V, Sec. 8, *Field Exercise Book.*

They will then consider themselves attacked, and ordered to retire, fighting and disputing the ground, on the reserve at C, and will show on the board how they would occupy the ground at D, (which ground they are supposed to have observed on passing to the front) and then continue their retreat on the reserve C, marking the way in which they would clear the front of that body, forming on its flanks, or in its rear as its support.

The Commanding Officer will then assemble the entire of his Officers, and will further instruct them on Plan No. II, which should be drawn on a black board, on an enlarged scale of one foot to a mile.

The Plan represents a line of about four miles in extent, occupied by the outlying picquets of a battalion which has been ordered out to the front of the division or body of troops cantoned in and about the town of H.

The line occupied by the picquets is an open chain of Down hills, with a river on their left flank (to the Westward) running nearly North and South; the country to the front and centre of the line slightly enclosed, and wooded towards the front, and right or North-East of the line.

The ground being open, it is conjectured that five companies of sixty rank and file are more than sufficient to furnish the line or chains of sentries. The remaining five companies are posted in reserve by the Majors in command of Wings*.

The Picquets are furnished as follows:

Three companies from the Left Wing and two companies from the Right Wing—Total, five companies, leaving five in reserve.

The company on the extreme left of the line has detached a party to the West, consisting of 1 serjeant and 6 rank and file to watch a ford on the river—this de-

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* The Reserves and Picquets should be as much as possible under cover, in houses, barns, &c., but with reference to the position of the advanced sentries.

tached party furnishes one double sentry for this purpose. There is another detached party from the same picquet or company to its front and flank or North-West, consisting of 1 Subaltern, 1 serjeant, and 12 rank and file to the bridge—furnishing a double sentry to the bridge-head to watch that approach, and to furnish a patrol on the West of the river. The object in sending out these detached parties is to secure the left flank of this picquet, which being the extreme left of the line is consequently exposed to the Westward. A patrol is likewise furnished from the left company, consisting of 1 serjeant and 3 rank and file to its front (the North) with orders to patrol to the Eastward along the front of the line until it communicates with the patrol belonging to the picquet or company on its right. It also sends patrols "*across*" the river.

The sentries furnished by this left picquet are two double sentries, posted on the crest or top of the ridge, as much out of sight as possible—these sentries at night would be advanced* sufficiently far down the face of the hill to prevent their being exposed, or seen in relief against the sky.—At night it would be necessary to increase the number of sentries, thus making the number furnished by the left company four double ones instead of two, or more in foggy weather.

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* It is supposed to be better to advance the night sentries beyond the hills, than to draw them over the hill and nearer the picquet, because the hill might be seized during the night should the sentries be withdrawn, and a contest ensue for the height.—Vide COLONEL LEACH.

The Left Picquet will, therefore, be found to stand thus:

	Subt.	Serjeant.	Rk. & File.	
Detached parties..	1 ..	1 ..	12 —	(bridge)
Ditto, do. ..	0 ..	1 ..	6 —	(ford)
Ditto, do. ..	0 ..	1 ..	3 —	(patrol)
Total detd. parties	1 ..	3 ..	21	rank and file.

Leaving the main body of the picquet to consist of 1 Captain, 1 Subaltern, and 39 rank and file, leaving sufficient for patrols.

The next Picquet in the line furnishes three double sentries from its main body, and a patrol; the same rules being applicable in this instance with regard to the moving forward of the sentries at night, and the chain would here, in like manner, be *doubled.*

The next Picquet on the Right furnishes two sentries from its main body—a patrol and detached or advanced party of 1 serjeant and 6 rank and file for the purpose of securing the small wood to its front, (the North.) This detached party at night furnishing one double sentry to the front of the wood, which sentry, by day, they could dispense with, as they would visit the wood frequently, and because the wood is commanded by the hill to its right (or Eastward)—*vide Plan.* These complete the three Picquets furnished by the Left Wing.

The next Picquet on the Right commences those furnished by the Right Wing. It has posted three double sentries to its Front, and sends out two patrols (*vide Plan*), consisting of 1 serjeant and 6 rank and file to each patrol. The right patrol of the two has

orders to proceed to the wood in its front, and ascertain, from time to time, that no force of the enemy is concealing or concentrating itself there.

The next Picquet, the Grenadiers, is the extreme right of the line, furnishing a detached party to its front and flank (North-East)—*vide Plan*—consisting of 1 subaltern, 1 serjeant, 1 corporal, 18 rank and file, which detached party furnishes one double sentry to its extreme right (the East), that flank being unprotected, and a patrol to its front to the wood, which patrol communicates round its right flank and rear with a patrol from the right reserve.

The reserve of the Right Wing is the strongest, because, in this line of Picquets, the right flank is more exposed than the left, which has the river to protect it. It patrols in the rear, and communicates with the right picquet by its right flank, by patrols, every half-hour.

In this plan (No. II) it will be seen that a regiment is ordered to cover the cantonments of a division or brigade in its rear at H. It must, however, be observed that on actual service, companies from different regiments might be appointed to this duty; but, in order to make the example as clear as possible, a regiment is named to cover the line of country in the following manner:

The Adjutant, or Quarter-Master General of the division, or Brigade-Major having informed the Officer in command of the regiment ordered out, that his right flank out-post is to rest on X, and his left on W, he immediately takes a view of the country, (or refers to his map,) and orders his two Majors to divide the line

of country ordered to be covered, between their two Wings, leaving to them the placing the reserves, or doing so himself.

The Majors, on finding where their respective flanks of wings are to rest, will indicate to the Officers in command of companies, the points on which their respective flanks are to be placed; the companies on moving out, *diverging* from their cantonments to the places they are to occupy. The picquets and their sentries being posted, the Majors of wings will visit the line and see that all is correct previous to their being visited by the General or Commanding Officer.

It must now be observed that such a line of country as is represented in the plan No. II, should, on account of its openness,* in a great measure be occupied by cavalry videttes, or both arms conjointly. Indeed, it is strongly recommended, and should so be ordered on all out-post duty†, that the outlaying picquet, even in an enclosed country, should be composed of the two arms for the purpose of carrying information to the rear. But, in the present instance, it must be supposed that no cavalry is opposed to the out-post of infantry on the plan, in order to place the picquet in their proper posts and positions, according to the foregoing rules‡.

After carefully studying the Plan No. II, the

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* Even when light artillery can with safety be brought to he front it should be done.—Vide NAPIER'S *Peninsular War*, vol. 3, p. 275.

† Vide COLONEL LEACH.

‡ Vide NAPIER'S *Peninsular War*, vol. 3, p. 275.

Officers will be examined by the Commanding Officer in the following Questions, "*and any others*" which he may consider applicable to the subject.

Question. Why does the left Picquet send out two detached parties?

Answer. Because it is a Flank Picquet, and its left is assailable by the ford and bridge over the river; consequently, it is necessary to post a party at each of those points; and the distance is too great to furnish the sentry from the main picquet.

Quest. Is the Party near the bridge properly placed on the map?

Ans. No; it should be under cover in the advanced houses of the village; taking care to communicate with the body of the Picquet by the communicating Sentry.

Quest. Where do you move the Sentries to at night?

Ans. Either to the front or flanks of the hill, as the ground may be best suited, in order to look upwards, as objects are thus more easily seen than looking downwards from a height at night.

Quest. Would you move your Picquet at night, after altering the position of your Sentries?

Ans. Yes, if the enemy could have seen the exact locality of my Picquet during the day, or could see my bivouac fire, or if it were necessary to be nearer my advanced Sentry; otherwise I might remain where I was during the day, but it is preferable to move if the enemy is near*.

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* Vide Colonel Arentschildt.

Quest. Is the detached Party of No. 7 Company wrongly placed?

Ans. Yes.

Quest. In what way?

Ans. By being in rear of the small wood in its front.

Quest. Where ought it to be placed?

Ans. In the wood, with a Sentry on the South side, and a communicating Sentry belonging to No. 7 Company on the top of the hill.

Quest. The Grenadier Company being on the right flank, and having no Picquet on its outer flank, and therefore, unprotected, how does it secure its flank, observing also that the wood, which is about 200 yards in its front, is too large to occupy thoroughly?

Ans. It detaches a party *or two* to its flank, keeping up a communication with them, and patrolling through the day to some distance into the wood, and at night-fall occupying the wood with a detached party, and patrolling well to the front, flank, and rear*.

Quest. What Patrol should the Grenadier flank and rear Patrol communicate with?

Ans. With that of the Right Reserve, which should patrol to its right flank and rear.

Quest. Do you conceive the troops in the cantonments are now as secure as can be expected

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* Vide General Sir C. Napier's Alteration of Plan No. II, and Field Officer of the Day's Report, as well as of the Officer in command of that Post.

under the circumstances of being in front of an active enemy?

Ans. Yes, unless it should be foggy weather, or very dark nights, when I should double or treble my Sentries, to avoid the possibility of being dishonoured by a surprise*.

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* Vide COLONEL LEACH.

THE foregoing instructions given by the Commanding Officer regarding Out-post Duty, will be put in practice in detail by Majors of Wings, commencing with the Officers only (without men) of "*one company at a time, in Skeleton Drill,*" on any chosen piece of ground near the quarters of the regiment, which could be watched or covered by one company of 60 files, a body of that number being supposed to occupy the ground.

The Officer to command the supposed Picquet must have pointed out to him *most distinctly* where his flanks are to rest. He will then make himself acquainted with the different heights, &c., within his command, will decide where he would place his sentries, the body of his picquet, communicating sentries, &c., the same as if he had men with him. On the Major of his Wing or Commanding Officer visiting him, he will point out the spots where he would have placed his sentries, &c.; the Major, or Commanding Officer, making such alterations as he may think proper, giving the young Officer "*clearly to understand the cause and reason of any alterations he may order.*" After which, the young Officer will send in a sketch and report of the ground he has occupied, showing the places where the sentries would have stood during the day, and any alteration that would have taken place at night.—*Vide* Company Officers' Plans.

This Skeleton Drill will be practised by Wings, under their respective Majors, who will indicate the place where "*their*" supposed reserves would be posted, which should, if possible, be under cover.

It will be evident, that in practising the above

Skeleton Drill, any harassing of the troops for the sake of instructing *the Officers only*, is completely avoided, and that can be practised at all times, when the severity of duty, either garrison or regimental, precludes the having the men out with the Officers; indeed, the men have not much to do, except to keep a good look out to their front and flanks, while the Officer on this particular duty, has to use his head, eyes, and ears.

The Commanding Officer of the regiment having had all his Officers instructed by the Skeleton Drill, as well as with men, will take out his entire battalion on any line of country, covering a *supposed position* cantonments, or camp in his rear, pointing out to the Majors of Wings, where their flanks are to rest. Previous to leaving the barracks, or cantonments, it must be most clearly explained to both Officers and men, that the rights of property must be respected, and that no damage be done to any fence, or paling, under any circumstances whatever; and the following orders must be read before marching off:

"1 No hedge to be broken down or attempted to be "crossed."

"2 No private garden or pleasure ground to be "entered."

"3 The road not to be left, except where no harm "can possibly be done to private property*."

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* In this country from its being generally much enclosed, the sentries will have to be placed on and along the roads, that run parallel to the *supposed position* or cantonment which they are ordered out to protect.—*Vide* LIEUT. WALLACE's Plan of a position of out-posts in an "inclosed country."

Whenever Officers find it impossible from the above reasons to place sentries where they ought to be to have a good look out, the Officer commanding the picquet will show the places where they *should have been*, to his Commanding Officer, when he visits his picquet, and will mark the spot on the plan where they should have stood. Majors of Wings should also point out where their reserves should have been placed.

The Commanding Officer having made his visits to the several posts, picquets, and reserves, Officers commanding Wings and Picquets, will give in plans and reports of the ground they have occupied; the greatest care being taken that the plans are drawn according to a scale of 4 inches to a mile; that the cardinal points are correctly laid down, and the comparative height of the hills distinctly shown, either by *shading* or by *numbers*, the lowest being No. 1.

It is not at all requisite that the Plans should always be finished in the superior manner in which most of those are executed, of which fac similes have been given; but the above rules as to scale, &c., must be strictly adhered to.

When the Commanding Officer of a regiment has looked over the different plans of his Majors and Company Officers, he will make, or cause one large plan to be made, of the entire position, as shown by the plans of Lieut.-Colonel Torrens, and that of Captain Prince Edward of Saxe Weimar and Colonel Cadogan's.

REPORTS.

Report of the Major of the Right Wing, (or the Field Officer of the Day) relative to the Picquets, as shown in Plate II.

Sir,

In obedience to your orders I marched with the companies of the Right Wing, having previously ascertained that the men going on duty had been inspected by the Officers in command, and that each man had sixty rounds, their rations ready cooked (or uncooked, as the case might be) and biscuit for two days, flour or rice, &c. On leaving the town H., I pointed out to the Officers commanding the Picquets, the spots where their flanks ought to rest, which I had previously done on the map; and directed them to diverge to their different positions, taking care to observe those places on their advance, where they could *make a stand*, should they be driven in, and pointing out where the Reserve would be placed, the different Companies moved off at 5 a. m.*

I visited the different Picquets by day and night. I ordered Patrols to be sent out to the front of the large wood on the right; to proceed to a considerable distance on the road directly in their front and to their flanks. I may here remark, that it would have been

* Vide Colonel Sir C. Napier's *Remarks on Plan No. II.*

of the greatest use for the above duty, had a non-commissioned officer and six hussars been with my Right Picquet which being unprotected was greatly harassed by the constant patrolling which was necessary*, knowing that the enemy was but a few miles in my front and in force, and having no troops on my right. Under these circumstances I caused the Reserve to send Patrols constantly to the right and rear, communicating with the Right Picquet and its detached party.

I had to alter the position of the detached party of the Right Picquet, considering it much *too* near the wood; and according to your order when visiting the Picquets, I placed it in the wood†, the sentry on the hill on the extreme right being able to keep up the communication between the body of the Picquet and the party in the wood. I also, according to your orders, desired the Patrol of No. 1 Company to patrol into, and round, the village in its front, which it had not done previously to your visiting the posts‡.

The detached party of No. 7 was advanced to the front of the small wood in its front by your direction, the Officer in command excusing himself in not having done so before, stating that the sentry on the hill, on the picquet side of the wood, entirely commanded the ground in its front§.

According to your orders, I caused the night-sentries to be placed more at the East and West sides of the hill, and on their flanks at their base.

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* Vide Colonel Leach, *Duties of Troops.*

† Vide Sir C. Napier's *Alteration of Plan No. II.*

‡ Ibid. § Ibid.

Nothing could exceed the zeal and anxiety of the Officers to do their duty; and, considering that this was nearly the first time they had been on such a duty, they took up their ground with discernment and intelligence. Indeed had not Major * * * and myself instructed the Officers during our passage on board ship in the duties of Officers on Out-posts, I know not what might have happened to us, with such an active enemy in our front; as I grieve to say our late Commanding Officer, Colonel * * *, never gave us the slightest instruction in Out-post Duty or Patrolling, although such instruction is strictly enjoined in the Regulations of the service,—*Field Exercise Book*, p. 296 to 308; but I grieve to say that notwithstanding these strict and most necessary orders, I, who have been sixteen years in the service, have never been instructed by my superiors. I merely mention this as the cause of any error you may have seen in the disposition of my Picquets, and as an excuse for my professional ignorance; but which excuse I am fully aware the English public (who pay) would not have conceived sufficient, had the enemy, through my ignorance, passed my Picquets, dishonoured us by surprise, and made the Division, for whose safety I was supposed to be responsible, prisoners.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient humble Servant,

* * *

Major of Right Wing of the Picquets.

Report of the Officer in command of Right Picquet (the Grenadier Guards) relative to Plate No. II.

Sir,

I inspected the Grenadier Company yesterday morning previous to marching it off as an out-laying Picquet. Each man had sixty rounds of ammunition. Their arms were all in good order, and the copper caps in their leathern pockets; their meat cooked, two days' biscuit, and the rice and flour which were issued to them yesterday. I made a nominal list of every man I had with me. I had a pencil (or pen) and paper, a map of the country, a telescope and compass. On your pointing out to me the right and left of the ground where my Picquet was to be posted, I moved as an Advance Guard to a high hill, about the centre of my position, which would command the entire position I was to occupy; and observing the ground attentively as I went, the roads that came in on my rear, the bridges, &c., I decided on a post which I could easily defend, were I forced to retire; consisting of a bridge over an impassable brook, and two stone houses, which commanded it, and could be easily defended and not turned.

I halted on the hill; provided for my immediate security, by placing sentries on the outer circle of the hill, and took a serjeant and twelve men towards the point where my Right was to rest, viz., a circular hill on my right, leaving double sentries as I passed along, and keeping them in view. On arriving at the extreme right, I found no Picquet there; I therefore ordered the serjeant and four men to patrol into the wood and to the flank, with orders to return to the body of

the Picquet; and returning to my Picquet, reducing two sentries on my way that were unnecessary, I ordered Lieutenant * * * to take a party to the road, about 450 paces in my front. I then communicated with the Officer on my left, Lieutenant * * * having done so previously, and placed the sentries, which, finding too thickly posted, I reduced.

I was visited by the Major-General at sun-set, who ordered me to place my detached party on the road, under Lieutenant * * *, in the wood in his front, and "*thoroughly to watch it,*" which was done*. He also ordered, after asking me where I intended to post my night sentries, to place them lower on the hill, and more on their flanks, which was done. I moved the body of my Picquet after dark as I thought my fires might be seen from the wood, and between the hills; but I returned to the original ground before the sun was up. My Picquet was under arms one hour before day-light. My Patrols went out every half-hour after the Reliefs, which went every hour.

I observed, as I mentioned to you when you visited me, a large column of dust apparently six miles due North, and which continued to rise to the East, our right, the enemy's left; but I could see no troops; and the Patrols that went to the North, and towards the dust, did not meet any patrols of the enemy. A slight musketry-firing was heard to our right. I was relieved at six o'clock, a.m. I went round the sentries and posts with the Officer who relieved me;

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* Vide Sir C. Napier's *Alteration on Plan* No. II.

and gave him in writing the orders I received from the Major-General yesterday. I heard every sentry give over his orders to the relieving sentries*.

May I beg you will inform the Major-General, if I am committing no breach of discipline or respect, that I fear my right flank was not placed quite as he wished it, on his visiting my post; but as you know, we have never been instructed in Out-post Duty; and that had it not been for your and Major * * *'s kindness in teaching us something of it when on our passage out to act against an enemy, when we ought already to have been acquainted with it, we should have been totally ignorant of our duty. This is my only excuse; but I feel that justice was not done me by my late superior, in not having taught me my duty according and in obedience to the laws of the country and the regulations of the service.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient humble servant,
* * *
Captain of the Right Picquet.

Having now shown the system of instruction in Out-post Duties, which I have established in my district, grounded strictly on the regulations of the service as ordered in pages 126-7 of the *Queen's Orders*, and

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* General Craufurd's *Orders to Light Division.*

in the *Field Exercise Book*, supported by the authority of the distinguished Officers who have been kind enough to assist me with their great fund of military knowledge and experience, I shall proceed to lay before my readers the manner in which the system has been put in practice, and "*carried out*" by those under my orders.

I should remark that the Plans and Reports are taken almost at random from the large collection I have in my possession from almost every regiment I have had the honour and good fortune to have had under my orders; indeed, from all being good, it has been difficult to choose which or what regimental Plans and Reports to select for the above purpose: I have, therefore, taken those of the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards, now under my command, commanded by Colonel Thornton, and whose Adjutant is Prince Edward of Saxe Weimar; and those of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, under Lieutenant-Colonel Torrens, and of Captain Wynn, of the Royal Fusiliers, and Major Mackirdy, of 69th Regiment; and one Plan also of Lieutenant Wallace, of the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, showing a line of picquets in an enclosed country, covering a supposed cantonment in its rear. The latter I have inserted with a view of showing that, however intersected a country may be where a regiment may be quartered, instruction can equally be carried on, although it is certainly more difficult than in an open hilly country like the Downs about Winchester or Chichester. Underneath is my letter to Lieutenant-Colonel Torrens, ordering out his regiment, which is nearly the same to all Commanding

Officers, with the exception of naming the different positions I wish their corps to occupy. A Commanding Officer sending the same style of order to an Officer on detachment, would receive similar Plans and Reports as those given hereafter, by which arrangement Officers on detachment with a very small number of men, can be practised in the essential duties of Picquets and Patrolling.

Sir,—You will take the Battalion under your orders, and place it (to act as outlaying picquets in front of a supposed enemy) with your right on the River Itchen, under St. Catherine's Mount, and your left on the hill above Avington Park, to cover the supposed cantonments of a Division in your rear.

I have the honor to be, &c., &c.,

FREDERICK FITZCLARENCE,
Major-General.

Lt. Col. Torrens, Commanding R. W. F.,
Winchester.

Winchester, 10th March, 1849.

My Lord,—Agreeable to your orders, I took up on the 8th instant the position directed,—viz., with my right at the Bridge, near St. Catherine's Hill, and with my left in front of Avington Park. Owing to the length of the front, I considered it essential to

To Southampton
Ferry
Canal
Water Meadows
Park with clumps of trees
Plantation
Quarry
R. Itchin
Mile
49.

establish four Reserves for the proper support of the Picquets,—viz., that of the right at Bar End, the right centre at Chilcomb, the left centre at the New Inn, on the Alresford Road, and the extreme left (which should be a strong Reserve from the nature of the country and its distance from the cantonments) at the village of Avington.

I enclose, herewith, the Reports of the Officers commanding the Picquets, with their sketch of each post; and I beg to transmit, in addition, a general sketch of the whole position, showing the entire chain of Sentries, Picquets, and Reserves.

I have the honor to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's obedient servant,

ARTHUR W. TORRENS,

Lt. Col. R. W. F., Commanding 1st Bat.

To M.-Gen. Lord F. Fitzclarence, G.C.H*.

Winchester, 8th of March, 1849.

Sir,—I have the honor to report to you, that according to the order of yesterday's date, I proceeded with my Company at 8 o'clock this morning to take up a position at Avington Park, being on the left of a line of picquets.

On examining the ground, I found that the park and country to the right of it was much wooded, I therefore placed my line of sentries in advance, on

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* Vide *Plan No. III.*

some clear heights, communicating on my right with Lieut. Phillips. I detached a party to a cottage (brick) situated in some thin wood towards my right, and another to a farm-house (brick, with out-houses) to the left of my position, to watch the main road and communications that lay on that flank. The main party of my picquet I advanced to the hedge-row of the park, to be within reach if required, leaving the park and house to fall back upon if necessary, I also communicated with the reserve in rear.

At 11 o'clock all my arrangements were complete. By day my sentries were able to see all the country to my front and left; by night it would have been necessary to increase their number, and watch the bridge communicating with the road on my left. I should also have patrolled round that flank and through the plantation in front.

I perceived a church and village in advance of my left, too far for me to visit, also a large house in a park, which circumstances I reported to the Field Officer of the day.

I enclose herewith a sketch of my position.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

D. Lysons, Capt. R. W. Fus^rs.

Lt.-Col. Torrens, Commanding R. W. Fusiliers*.

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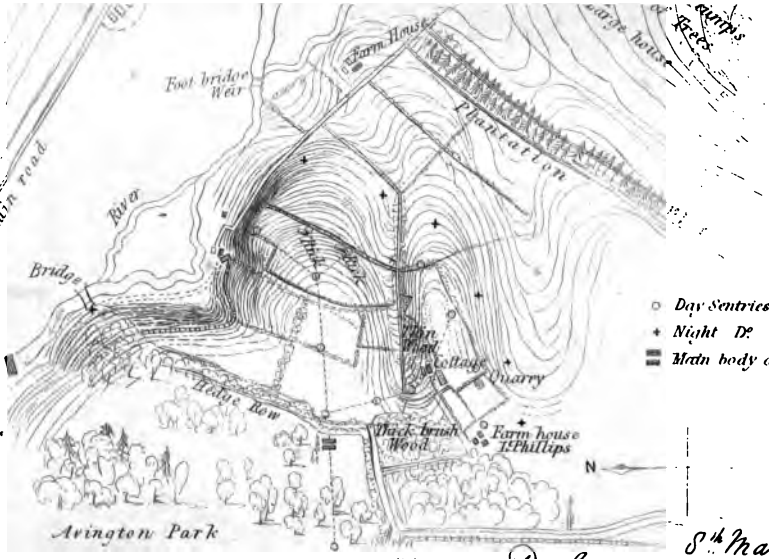
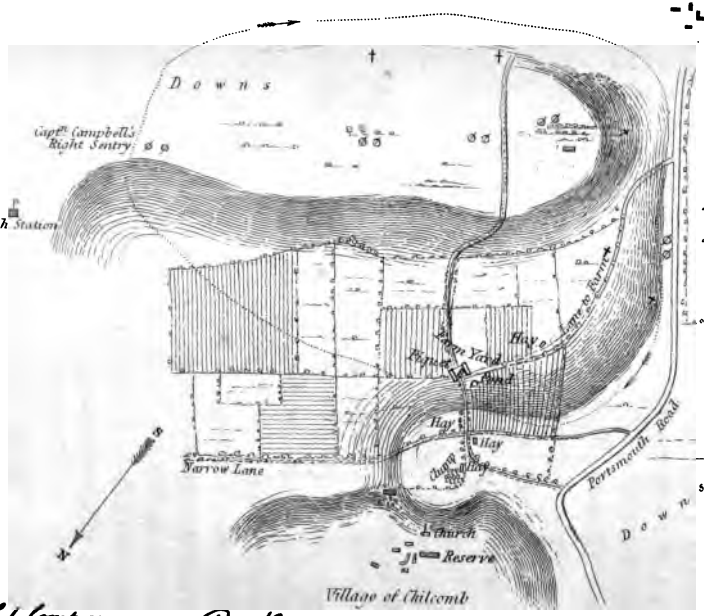
* Vide *Plan No. IV.*



Position of
Nº2 Compᵉ
Extreme Left

8th March 1849

D. Lysons
Capt. R. W. F.



Position of No. 1 Company
8th March. 1849.

R. Bruce
1st Lieut. R.M.L.

Winchester, 9th March, 1849.

Sir,—I have the honor to report for your information, that yesterday, in compliance with your order, I took up a position with No. 1 Company on the Hill in front of Chilcomb, having left a small party on the side next the village, for the purpose of communicating with the Reserve posted there. I advanced my Picquet to the opposite foot of the hill, where I found an enclosed farm-yard, admirably suited for my head-quarters; from them I detached a party under the command of the Serjeant-Major to occupy the right extremity of the chain of hill in my front, which, commanding the entrance to the valley, forms a very important point of the position. I threw out a chain of sentries along the front, which, from its elevation, commanded a most extensive tract of country, communicating with Lieutenant Tritton on the right, and Captain Campbell on the left. I found four double sentries amply sufficient for this duty by day. I enclose a small sketch of the position, in which is indicated the change and increase I should think it necessary to make if posting them for night duty. Upon first taking up this position, I sent a party to reconnoitre the small village of Montend, which lay about a quarter of a mile in advance of my right front.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

ROBERT BRUCE, Lieut. R. W. Fusiliers.

To Lt.-Col. A. W. Torrens, Commanding R.W.F*.

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* Vide *Plan* No. V.

Winchester, March 10th, 1849.

Sir,—I have the honor to report that in obedience to your orders, I marched to the bridge at the foot of St. Catherine's Hill, where the main body of my Picquet was stationed, my right resting on the River Itchen. I then sent out two detached parties, one on the road to Twyford, and the other to the entrance of a lane in my front, which communicated with Lieutenant Bruce's Picquet on my left.

I had seven double sentries, and I should not have increased them at night, but should have withdrawn them from the rising ground.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
T. B. TRITTON,
Lieutenant, R. W. Fusiliers.

To Lieut.-Col. Torrens,
Commanding R. W. Fusiliers*.

Winchester, November 15th, 1850.

Sir,—I have the honor to report to you, that, agreeable to your orders, I proceeded with the company under my command, to occupy the position forming the extreme right of the line taken up by the Regiment.

I marched out of Winchester by the Romsey Road, which I quitted at about half a mile from the town, and proceeded along the Roman Road leading to Old Sarum.

After marching about two miles from Winchester, I came to the position shown in the annexed sketch†. I posted my company behind a hedge, near the top of

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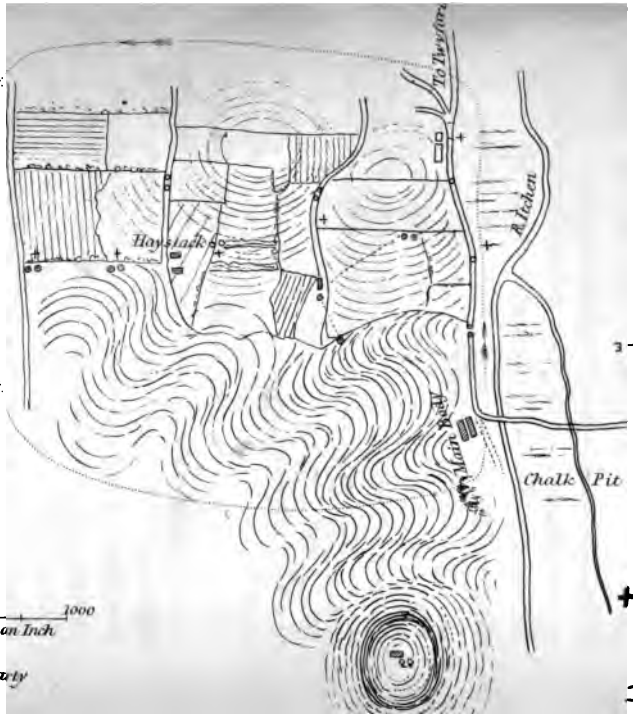
* *Vide Plan No. VI.* † See page 61.


To Twyford
R. Itchen
Haystack
Roman Camp
Chalk Pit
St Cuths
S
E
M
N
0 500 1000
1000 Paces to an Inch
Detached Party
Day Sentry

the hill, a short distance to the right of the Roman Road, with one sentry in front communicating with the Company on the left. I posted another sentry to the right at the head of the valley; and placed my right section close to a small lane on the right, with a sentry a short distance on their right, as shown in the annexed sketch. I also posted a sentry at the head of the valley, near the farm house, a position where the surrounding country could be seen for several miles. I also sent out a strong patrol, under a non-commissioned officer, along the Roman Road to a considerable distance in advance of my position, with orders to search the wood in my front thoroughly.

After having posted my own Company, I proceeded to visit the other Companies of the Right Wing of which you ordered me to take charge.

Lieut. Miller occupied the ground to the left of the Roman Road with his Picquet, posted between the Roman Road and the Romsey Road, with a sentry on the left of the Roman Road, one on the right of the lane leading from Pit Farm, and another on a projecting point of ground about half way between Pit Farm Lane and the high road. A strong Patrol was sent from this Company, with orders to proceed along the left of the hollow road leading from Pit Farm, and then to patrol the ground between that and the high road, and thence to follow up the valley to the position of the Company on his left.

Captain Mills occupied the left of the turnpike road, and formed the left of the Right Wing. He was posted in rear of a small wood, one section being *detached to occupy* a farm on the extreme left. He

had one sentry posted on the top of the hill, and another about half way down, while a third, posted close to the lane leading to Hursley, completed the chain of communication with the Left Wing. A Patrol from his left section proceeded along the lane towards Hursley, turning to the right a little way beyond the last-named sentry, and crossing the top of the hill, reached the Romsey Road, a short distance beyond a small fir plantation.

Lieut. Edgell with his Company was posted as a Reserve in rear of Pitfield Farm close to the turnpike road. He sent out a strong patrol round the whole of the right of the position, passing through Crab Wood, which they had orders to examine carefully, and returning by the Roman Road.

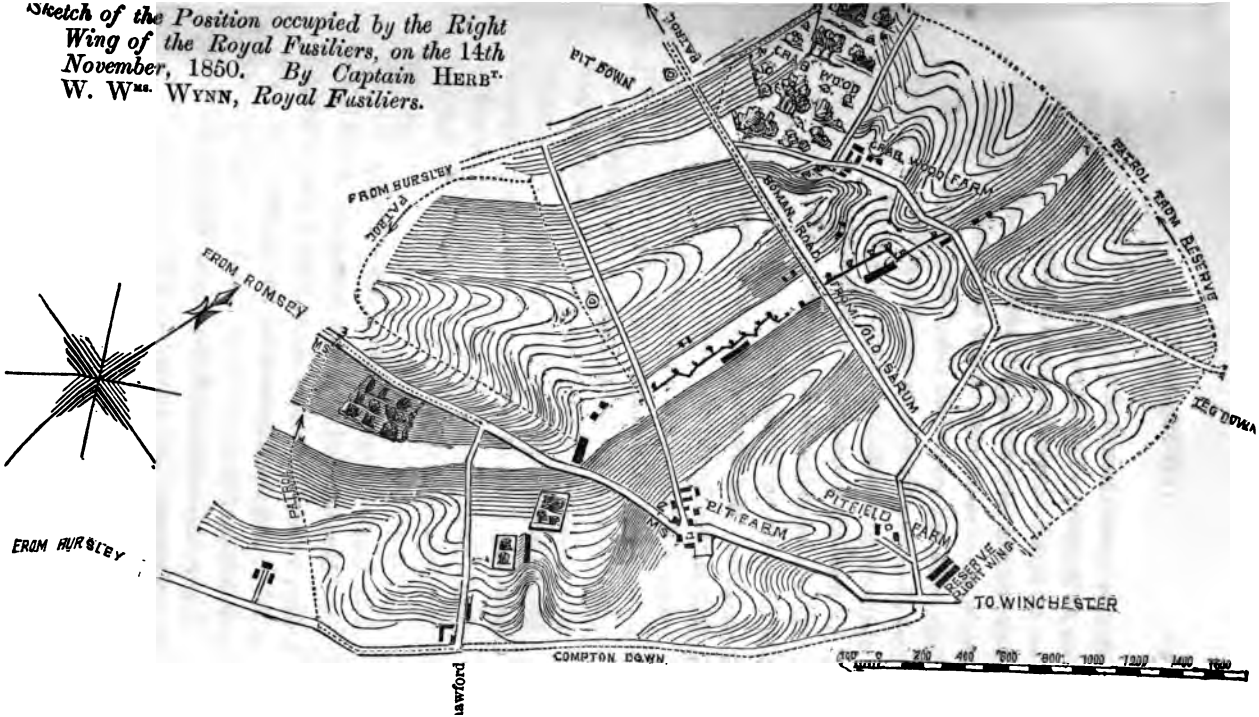
The position in rear of Crab Wood is the best in the neighbourhood, although considerably impaired as a post of observation by the extensive wood in front of the right. I therefore kept patrols constantly moving to the front and through the wood which I occupied at night.

Strong posts of cavalry should be posted in advance and on the outskirts of the wood. They should send out frequent patrols on all the neighbouring roads.

The Roman Road passing along by Crab Wood is of no great importance, as it ceases to be practicable about a mile and a half from the position.

The small road from Pit Farm is of no importance whatever, as it soon forks off to the Roman and Turnpike Roads.

The Turnpike Road is of very great importance. About a mile and a quarter from the position occupied *by the Picquets,* the road divides, one branch leading


Sketch of the Position occupied by the Right Wing of the Royal Fusiliers, on the 14th November, 1850. By Captain HERBT. W. WMS. WYNN, Royal Fusiliers.
PIT DOWN
PATROL
FROM BURSLEY
FROM ROMSEY
ROMAN ROAD
FARMFOLD FARM
PATROL FROM RESERVE
TO DOWN
PITFIELD FARM
PIT FARM
RESERVE RIGHT WING
TO WINCHESTER
COMPTON DOWN.
FROM BURSLEY
Lawford

to Southampton through the village of Hursley, the other to Romsey. This latter is the most direct road from London to Dorchester and Weymouth. Strong parties should be posted considerably in advance on each of these roads, with orders to patrol frequently. There is a small road on the left of the position leading more directly to Hursley; it is practicable for all arms, and should be carefully watched.

All these roads concentrate on Winchester.

There is an admirable line of retreat from the position by a line of heights above Winchester to the North-West, this crosses the London Road about a mile from Winchester.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
HERB$^{T.}$ W. W$^{MS.}$ WYNN,
Capt. Royal Fusiliers.

Lieut.-Colonel Yea,
Commanding Royal Fusiliers.

Chichester, January 25th, 1851.

My Lord,—In obedience to your lordship's orders, which I received on the 23rd, I this morning marched the Battalion to the line, pointed out by your lordship.

I gave the command of the Right Wing to Lieut.-Col. Thornton; and separating from it at the cross-roads South of East and Mid Lavant, I proceeded with the Left Wing by the road in the direction of *Rooke's Hill.*

Upon arriving on the open Down South of Rooke's Hill, with the assistance of Lieut.-Colonel Cadogan, I directed the different Companies upon points in the line, which are marked in the accompanying plan, thus forming a chain of sentries, and communicating with those of the Right Wing at the ford of the stream immediately below Binderton.

Both Officers and men appeared to me to take up their ground with much promptness and regularity.

With regard to the line we occupied, whether regarded as a chain of out-posts, or as a position occupied by a considerable force, I apprehend that any force occupying Binderton should be directed to retire by the open country to the rear and to the right of that place, and *not* by the high road, inasmuch as a hostile force advancing from East Lavant, and forcing the line of Picquets at Rooke's Hill, would be at Singleton before the force from Binderton could be withdrawn through West Dean and Singleton.

The ground in front of the line appears to be adapted to the proper use of infantry, cavalry, and artillery.

There is a very strong position on the high ground called Levin Down, crossing the road in rear of Singleton, and reaching along the high ground in the rear of West Dean. I conceive this position to be impregnable in front, but to be turned on the right by a movement along the very open country to the right of West Dean I prefer, therefore, a position about a mile to the rear, with the flanks resting on Singleton Forest and West Dean Woods. These woods are so far peculiar, that troops might move through them; and there is a ex-

markable plateau in the rear of them, along which Reserves might be moved to the right or left flank if required, or a flank movement made.

Your lordship will readily detect many errors in these observations, and will, I know, as cheerfully pardon them.

I have the honour to remain
Your Lordship's obedient servant,
THOMAS WOOD,
Capt. & Lt.-Col. Commanding 3rd Bat.
Grenadier Guards.

M.-Gen. the Lord Frederick Fitzclarence.

Barracks, Chichester, January 25, 1851.

SIR.—I have the honour to state that, in pursuance of orders received from Lieutenant-Colonel W. Thornton, I proceeded in command of No. 1 Company* to occupy a position as a Picquet of Observation, for the purpose of watching the movements of a supposed enemy in the neighbourhood of Chichester.

My Picquet was already told off into three reliefs, and I had ascertained was provided with its rations.

On my march along the Western slope of Kingley Vale, a semicircular hollow, with its sides almost precipitous towards the North, but less steep at its Eastern and Western extremities, I dropped double sentries to

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* 1 Lieutenant, 3 Serjeants, 54 Rank and File.

communicate with the right sentries of No 2 Company. On arriving at the crest of Bow Hill, I desired Serjeant Columbine to post the Company in a position I pointed out to him, immediately behind the crest on the South Slope of Bow Hill, and myself proceeded with the remainder of my first relief to the Westward, to take measures for the immediate security of the right flank of my Company, which was to be *en l'air*.

From the openness of the country, I found it was not necessary to leave any support to these sentries nearer than the main body of the Picquet, during the day time. I then returned along the whole of my chain of sentries, relieving a couple that I deemed unnecessary, and communicated with the Officer commanding the Picquet on my left, Captain Wilson.

I have omitted to state that I had made arrangements with Captain Wilson, that our patrols should meet and communicate at a given time, hourly, at the flanks of our Companies.

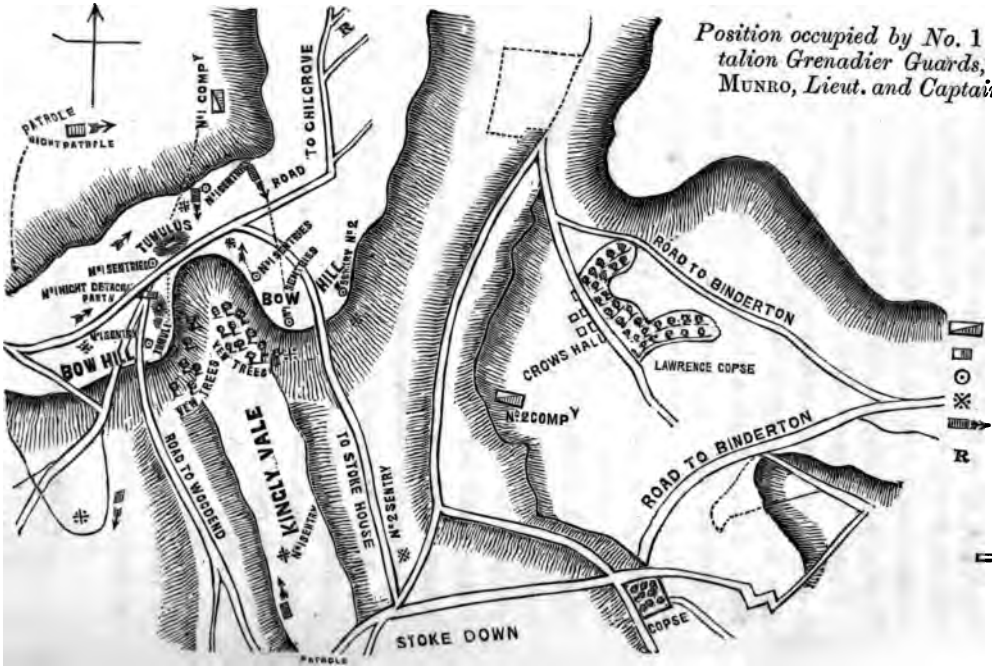
These patrols were ordered to go by the front and return by the rear of the chain of Sentries.

Having made these arrangements for the security of my Picquet, I found I could cover the extent of my position with five double sentries by day, which I could change to six, and a detached party of a corporal and five men by night. The day sentries are marked ⊙ in the plan; the night sentries ○; the night detached party ⚐*.

In the event of being driven in by the enemy, I should have retired by the road marked *R* on the plan,

* Other marks are used in the plans as printed.

Position occupied by No. 1 Company, 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards, Jan. 25, 1851. CAM. MUNRO, *Lieut. and Captain Grenadier Guards.*



Main Body Picquet.
Detached party by night.
Double Sentry by day.
Do. Do. by night.
. . . Patrols proceeding as the arrow points.
R **Line of Retreat.**

Scale, 2 inches to a mile.

to the North-Eastward, taking care not to hamper the fire of the reserve, and myself harassing and retarding the advance of the enemy as much as possible.

My Patrol to my right had orders, as that flank was *en l'air*, to circle well round the sentries both to the front and rear, during the night. This was unnecessary during the day, as owing to the nature of the ground, no enemy could stir on that flank without being immediately detected.

The roads marked are mere tracts on the turf, but tolerably levelled.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient humble servant,
CAM. MUNRO,
Lieutenant and Captain, Grenadier Guards.

Chichester Barracks, January 29, 1851.

SIR,—I have the honor to state that in compliance with orders received from Colonel Wood, I proceeded in command of No. 2 Company*, 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards, on Saturday the 25th January, to occupy a position as a Picquet of Observation, for the purpose of watching the movements of a supposed enemy in the neighbourhood of Chichester.

My Picquet had already been told off into three reliefs, and I had ascertained that they were provided with their rations.

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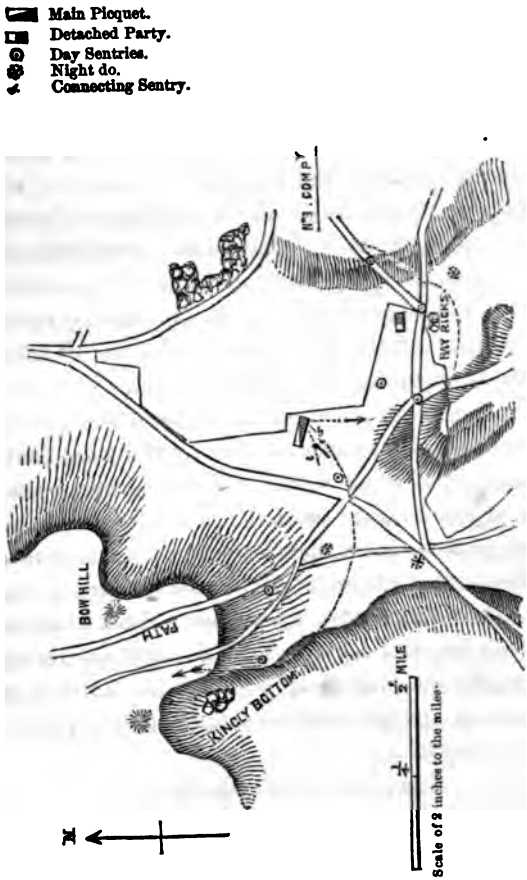
* Strength of Company, 1 Lieutenant and Captain, 2 Sergeants, 48 Rank and File.

Having arrived at the appointed ground, I halted the main body of my Picquet under the lee of the hill to the South-East of Bow Hill, and proceeded at once to take steps for my security. For this purpose, dividing my first relief into two parties, I directed Serjeant Hardy to take command of one, and to proceed to the left of my position, then to communicate with the Picquet on my left, dropping sentries as he went along in such positions as he might deem expedient, and further stationing Serjeant Hancock and six men close to some hay-ricks at the cross-roads; returning, after having fulfilled the above instructions, by the line in which he had posted his sentries, and withdrawing those which might seem superfluous.

I proceeded myself to the North-West or right of my position with the remainder of my relief, posting my sentries for immediate security as I went along, and having communicated with the Officer in command of the Picquet on my right, and thus assured myself that my flank was guarded, I returned along the line of sentries I had originally posted, and found that, (owing to the open nature of the ground between the right of my position and the main body of my Picquet,) I could safely withdraw two double sentries.

Having returned to the main body of my Picquet, I ascertained from Serjeant Hardy, that he had fulfilled my instructions and secured the safety of my left flank, by communicating with the Officer in command of the Picquet on my left.

I next proceeded to visit the remainder of the line of sentries, and found them judiciously placed, and had



Plan of the Position occupied by No. 2 Company, 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards, on the 25th January, 1851, by HERBERT L. WILSON, *Lieut. and Captain, Commanding No. 2 Company.*

no occasion to alter the disposition of Serjeant Hardy's arrangements.

I have omitted to state that I made arrangements with the Officers in command of the Picquets on my right and left, to send out our patrols every hour so as to meet each other, as nearly as possible at a given time on the flanks of my Picquet.

Having completed all the arrangements for the security of my Picquet, I found that I could perfectly cover the extent of my position with six double sentries by day, which I could reinforce by two extra by night. The positions of the day sentries are marked ⊙ in the accompanying plan; the night sentries ○.

The Reserve of my Wing being posted on the Chilgrove Road, about a mile to the rear of my left flank, in the event of being driven in, I should retire by the road or path leading across the Down from the *right* of my position, but communicating with the high road a little further on, so as not to cloud its fire against the advancing enemy, upon whose flank I should hover as long as I could do so, with safety, during my retreat, for the purpose of harassing him as long as possible, and giving the Reserve ample time to prepare for his reception.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

HERBERT LOWTHER WILSON,

Lieutenant and Captain, Grenadier Guards.

To Lieut.-Col. Thornton,
Officer Commanding Right Wing,
3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards.

Chichester Barracks, January 27th, 1851.

Sir,—According to orders received, I proceeded on the 25th instant with four companies, forming the Left Wing of the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards, to take up the position assigned to it as a chain of out-posts, extending from the centre of the *main* position at Binderton on which the left of the Right Wing rested, to the bluff called Rooke's Hill, overlooking Goodwood Race Ground, facing to the Southward, the supposed object being to watch the movements of an enemy in the direction of Chichester.

Having arrived on the ground through East Lavant and the Singleton Road, I disposed of the different Companies under my charge in Out-picquets, in the following manner: W. 5, commencing at Binderton, where its right sentries communicated with the left of W. 4, from thence across the Lavant (a fordable stream,) to where the ground begins to ascend to Hayes Down. Picquet on the rise of the hill in a small wood extending along the rear of this and the next post to the left. A serjeant's party occupied a small clump a little in advance. Lieut. Morant, in command W. 6, continued the line along the crest of Hayes Down, whose Picquet was a little to the rear in the wood above-mentioned. A serjeant's party occupied a small stone enclosure a little to the front. Lieut. Burgoyne, W. 7, continued the line over the Down that rises towards Rooke's Hill, where it communicated with the right of W. 8. Picquet at the angle of the wood where the road to West

Dean intersects the position. Captain Rowley, W. 8, occupied the remainder of the open Down to Rooke's Hill. This height is crowned by a circular trench and beacon, the remains of a Roman camp. The Picquet being in the trench, a strong serjeant's party occupied a small wood to the Eastward, commanding the approach from Goodwood. At night, sentries would also be required in a small wood at some distance down the slope of the hill to the front of the position. Captain Neville commanded this post.

These different posts being taken up, I assured myself that the proper reliefs and patrols were told according to the requirements of each picquet; as also that the communication between the different posts was effectually established according to the regulations for Out-post Duty.

I satisfied myself that the nature of the ground and roads in the rear afforded the means of easy retreat on Singleton. I should place the reserve of the Left Wing in any convenient spot contiguous to this road, as being accessible to all, but nearest to my extreme left or unguarded flank. The Colonel in command having inspected my arrangements, I was ordered to withdraw my picquets and march to barracks.

I beg to enclose a Field Sketch of the position occupied by the Left Wing, as also the Reports of the Officers of the Left Wing.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient humble servant,
G. CADOGAN,
Capt. & Lt.-Col. 3rd Bat. Gr. Gds.,
Commanding Left Wing.

Barracks, Chichester, January 28th, 1851.

Sir,—I have the honour to state, that in pursuance of orders received from Lt.-Col. Wood, I proceeded in command of No. 8 Company*, to occupy a position as a Picquet of Observation, for the purpose of watching the movements of a supposed enemy in the neighbourhood of Chichester.

My Picquet was already told off into Three Reliefs; and I had ascertained that it was provided with its rations.

On my march along the road from East Lavant to Singleton, I halted on the crest of the hill, and left one double sentry, and proceeded in an Easterly direction to the old entrenchments on Rooke's Hill, where I halted the Company in a sheltered position within the entrenchment. I ordered Serjeant Russell to take part of the first relief and place double sentries to communicate with No. 7 Company on my right; I took the remainder of this relief to my left flank, which was much exposed.

I then returned along the whole of my chain of sentries, relieving one of them, which I deemed unnecessary, and I communicated with the officer commanding the Company to my right; and I settled with him that our patrols were to meet and communicate each hour, at a given time, as near as possible near the flanks of our Companies.

The patrols were ordered to go by the front and to return by the rear of the chain of sentries.

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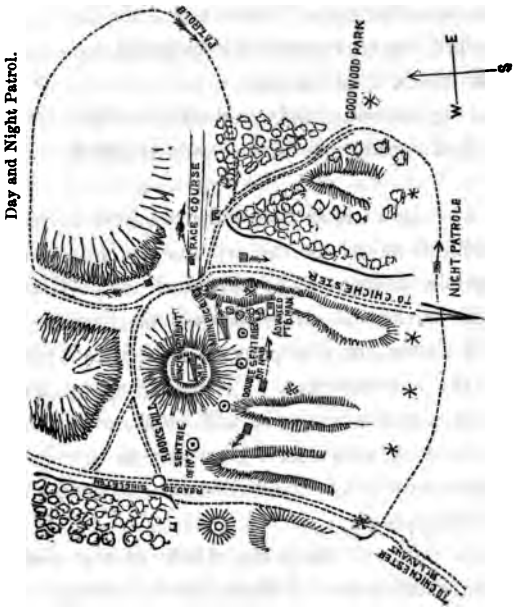
* 1 Lieutenant, 3 Serjeants, 54 Rank and File.

Outline of Position occupied by No. 8 Company, 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards, the left resting on the hill above the Race Course, and communicating with the left of No. 7 Company, by a line of sentries extended over Rooke's Hill.



Main Picquet.
Detached Party.
Patrol.
Day Sentry.
Night do.

SCALE ½ MILE

Scale of 2 inches to the mile.

H. A. NEVILLE,
Lieut. & Capt. Grenadier Guards.

January 25th, 1851.

Having made these arrangements for the security of my Picquet, I found that I could cover the extent of my position with five double sentries, which could change to seven, and a detached party of a corporal and four men by night.

The day sentries are marked ⊙ in the plan, and the night Sentries ○, and the night detached party ⚐.

In the event of my being driven in by the enemy, I should have retired by the Singleton Road, taking care not to hamper the fire of the Reserve of my Wing, which was placed in the Singleton Road, about a mile in rear of the position; I should harass and retard the advance of the enemy as much as possible. My Patrol to the left flank had orders, as that flank was *en l'air*, to circle well round the sentries both to the front and rear, and to their left flanks during the night and also during the day.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
N. A. NEVILLE,
Lieut. & Capt. Grenadier Guards.

Lt.-Col. the Hon. G. Cadogan,
Commanding Left Wing
3rd Bat. Grenadier Guards.

I had omitted stating, that I posted an advanced party of a serjeant and six men towards the road leading from the enemy's position round my left flank, and along this road a patrol was directed to proceed about two miles.

Chichester Barracks, January 25th, 1851.

Sir,—I have the honour to state, that in compliance with orders received from the Officer Commanding the Battalion, I proceeded in command of No. 7 Company* to occupy a position as Picquet of Observation in order to watch the movements of a supposed enemy in the vicinity of Chichester.

My Picquet had been told off into three reliefs, and I ascertained that they were provided with their rations.

On arriving at the appointed ground, I halted the main body of the Picquet at the plantation near the Singleton Road, and proceeded to take steps for my general security. From the small extent of ground I had received orders to occupy, I found it necessary only to post two double sentries, one of which was posted by Serjeant Bachelor to communicate with the Company on my right, and the other by myself, to communicate with that on my left, making arrangements with the Officer commanding the Picquet on my left, as did Serjeant Bachelor with the Officer commanding the Picquet on my right, to send out our patrols every hour, so as to meet each other as near as possible at a given time. I found that two extra Sentries would be sufficient at night.

My main Picquet being posted in the aforesaid plantation, directly in rear of my sentries, in the event of my being driven in, I should retire by the Singleton Road on the left of the Reserve, so as not to mask its

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* *1 Lieutenant* and Captain, 2 Serjeants, 25 Rank and File.

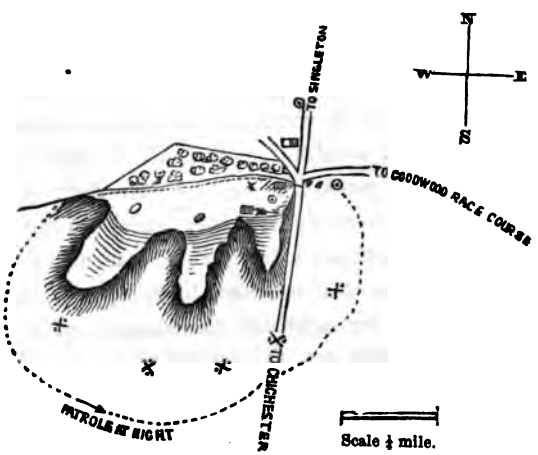
fire against the advancing enemy, on whose flank I should hover as long as I could do so safely, in order to detain him as much as possible, and give the Reserve time to prepare for his reception.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
A. E. ROWLEY,
Lieut. & Captain Grenadier Guards.

The Officer Commanding the Left Wing.

Sketch of Position occupied by 7th Company.

Main Body Picquet.
Detached Party.
Day Sentry Double.
Night do. do.
Patrol proceeding to the E.
Do do. W.



A. E. ROWLEY, *Grenadier Guards*,
January 31*st*, 1851.

Sir,—I have the honour to state that in compliance with orders received from Colonel Wood, I proceeded in command of No. 5 Company*, to occupy a position as a Picquet of Observation, for the purpose of watching the movements of a supposed enemy in the neighbourhood of Chichester. My Picquet had been already told off into three reliefs, and ascertained they were all provided with their rations. Having arrived at the appointed ground, I halted the main body of my Picquet on the top of Hayes Down, where I found it was under cover, and proceeded at once to take immediate steps for my general security; for this purpose, dividing my first relief into two parties, I ordered Serjeant Hancock to take command of one, and to proceed to the left, until he should communicate with the Picquet of the other company, dropping sentries as he went along in such positions as he might deem advisable, returning after having communicated as above directed by the line in which he had posted his sentries, and withdrawing those which might seem superfluous. I proceeded myself to the right of my position with the remainder of my relief, posting my sentries for immediate security as I went along, and having communicated with the Officer in command of the Picquet on my right, and thus assured myself that my flank was guarded, I returned along the line of sentries I had originally posted. Having returned to the main body of my Picquet, ascertained from Serjeant

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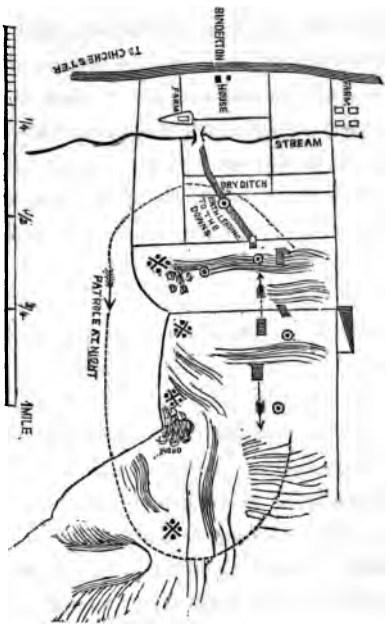
* 1 Lieutenant, 3 Serjeants, 49 Rank and File.

Position of No. 5 Company.



Main Body Picquet.
Detached Party.
Day Sentry Double.
Night Sentry Double.
Patrol proceeding to the Left.
Patrol proceeding to the Right.

WILLIAM MORANT,
Ens. & Lieut. Grenadier Guards.
January 25th, 1851.

Hancock that he had secured the safety of my left flank by communicating with the Officer in command of the Picquet on my left. I next proceeded to visit the remainder of the line of sentries, and found them judiciously placed, and had no occasion to alter them. I made arrangements with the Officer in command of the Picquet on my right, as did Serjeant Hancock with the Officer in command of that on my left, to send out our patrols every hour, so as to meet each other as nearly as possible at a given time on the flanks of my Picquet. These patrols received orders to return by the rear of the chain of sentries. Having made all the arrangements for the security of my Picquet, I found that I could perfectly cover the extent of my position with five double sentries by day, which I could reinforce by four sentries extra by night. The positions of the day sentries are marked ⊙ in the Plan, the night sentries ○. The reserve of my Wing being posted on the road leading to Singleton, in the event of being driven in, I should retire by a pathway on the right flank of my Reserve, so as not to cloud its fire against the advancing enemy, upon whose flank I should hover as long as I could do so with safety during my retreat, for the purpose of harassing him as much as possible, and giving the Reserve ample time to be prepared.

I have the honor to remain, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM MORANT,

Ens. & Lieut. Grenadier Guards.

Jan. 25th, 1851.

Sir,—I have the honour to state, that in compliance with orders received from the Commanding Officer, 3rd Bat. Grenadier Guards, I proceeded in command of No. 6 Company* to occupy a position as a Picquet of Observation, for the purpose of watching the movements of a supposed enemy in the neighbourhood of Chichester.

My Picquet had been already told off into three reliefs. Having arrived at the appointed ground, I halted the main body of my picquet in rear of the foot path to Binderton, where I found it was under cover, and proceeded at once to take immediate steps for my general security. For this purpose (considering the distance short enough for one party) I ordered Serjeant Russell to take the first relief, and communicate with the Picquets on my right and left, dropping sentries as he went. I proceeded myself to the right of my position, and withdrew one double sentry, thinking for so short a distance three to be sufficient. Having returned to the main body of my Picquet, I ordered Acting-Serjeant Coles to go with four men to occupy an enclosed garden towards my left flank. I next proceeded to visit the whole of the line of sentries, and found them judiciously placed, and had no occasion to alter the disposition of their arrangement.

I made arrangements with the Officer in command of the Picquets on my right and left, to send out our patrols every hour, so as to meet each other as nearly

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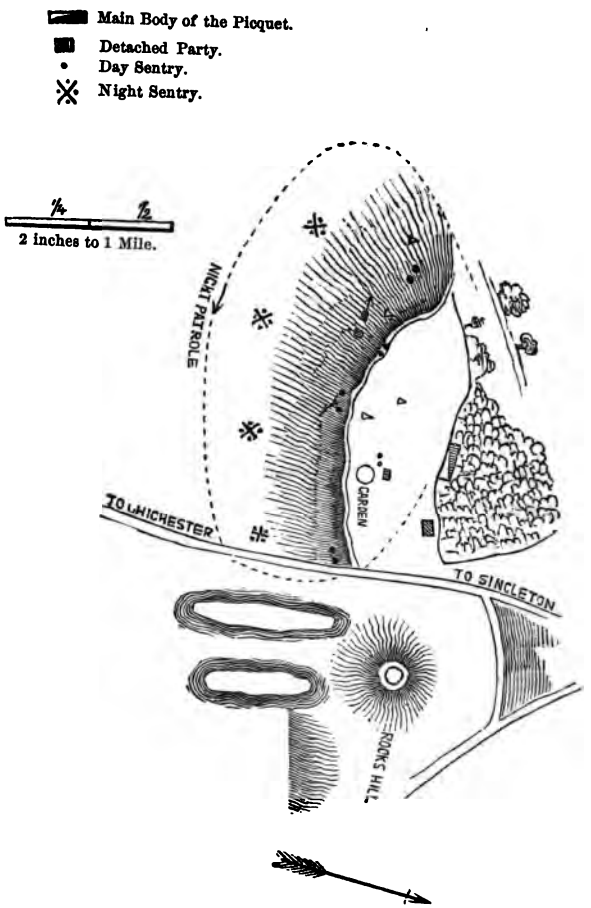
* 1 Lieutenant, 3 Serjeants, 51 Rank and File.

Position of the 6th Company.



J. MONTAGU BURGOYNE,
Ens. & Lieut. Grenadier Guards.
January 25th, 1851.

as possible at a given time on the flanks of my Picquet. These patrols received orders to return by the rear of the chain of sentries.

Having made all the arrangements for the security of my Picquet, I found I could perfectly cover the extent of my position with three double sentries by day which I could reinforce by four night sentries. The day sentries are marked ⊙ (in red), the night ○ in the Plan.

The Reserve of my Wing being posted in rear of West Dean Wood, in the event of being driven in, I should close with the 7th Company and retire by the Singleton Road.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. MONTAGU BURGOYNE,

Ens. & Lieut. Grenadier Guards.

To the Officer Commanding Left Wing
3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards.

Chichester Barracks, 12th July, 1851.

Sir,—I have the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Major-General commanding the district, that, in accordance with his lordship's instructions, I occupied, with the depôt 69th Regiment under my command, on the 26th ult., a position of observation, as Out-posts in advance of an army, supposed to be in cantonments at Chilgrove.

My right rested upon Bow Hill, and my left upon Binderton.

I directed three companies to act as Picquets, and enclose copies of my orders to their commanders, and the fourth to be placed in reserve.

I herewith transmit the reports of the several Officers, together with their plans, and my own general plan of the whole position.

I paid particular attention to the night sentries, and at the sound of the evening bugle, by my order, the whole of those were posted according to previous instructions.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant

D. Elliot Mackirdy,

Major 69th Reg., Commanding Depôt

To the Major of Brigade,
South West District, Portsmouth.

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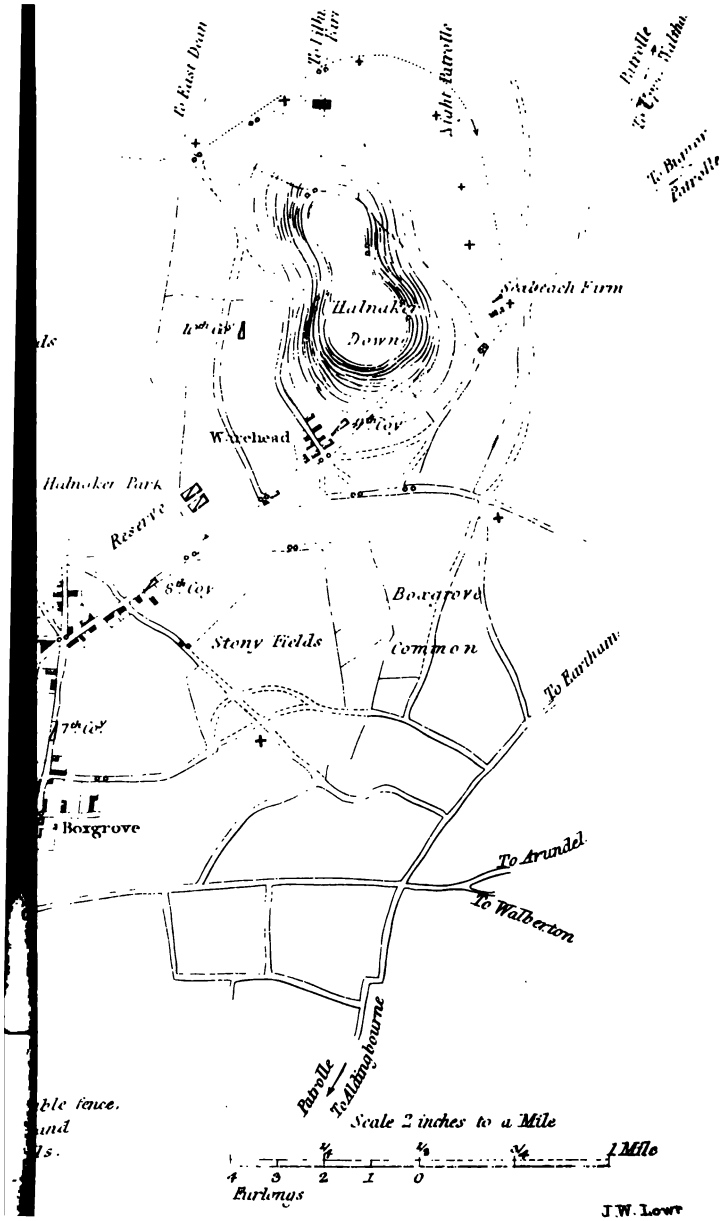
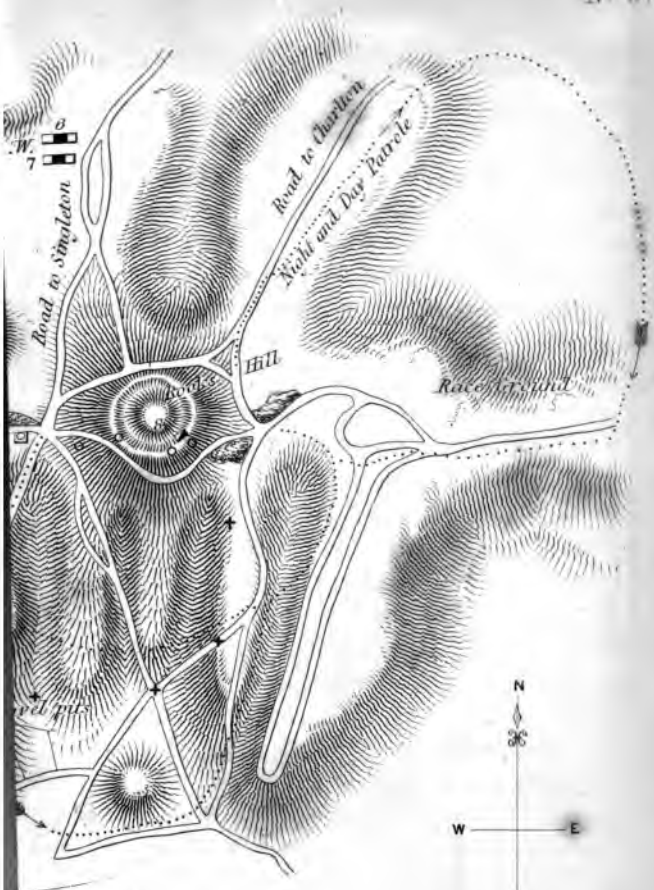
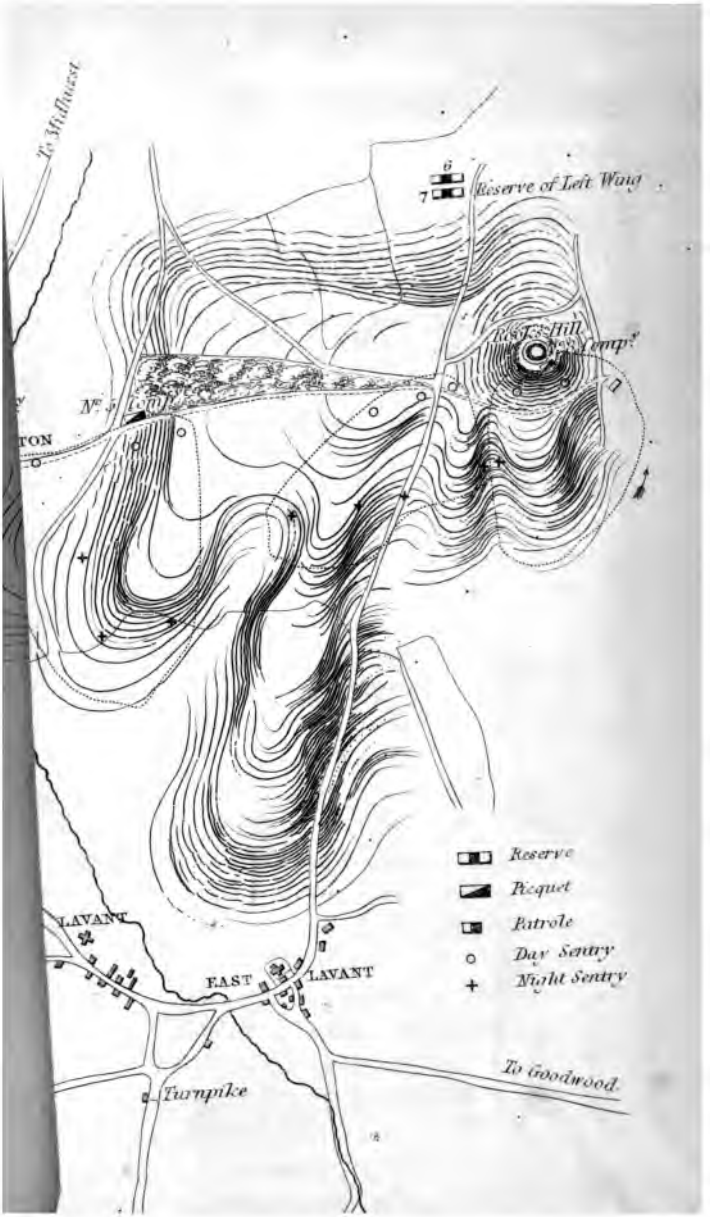

To East Dean
To Litlington
Short Patrolle
Patrolle
To Eastbourne
To Beachy Head Patrolle
Halnaker Down
Saddlescombe Farm
Warrenhead
Halnaker Park
Reserve
Stony Fields
Boxgrove Common
To Earnham
To Arundel
To Walberton
Boxgrove
Patrolle
To Aldingbourne
Scale 2 inches to a Mile
1 Mile
4 3 2 1 0
Furlongs
J.W. Lowe



FIELD SKETCH

sition occupied by the left wing of
ıtt.ⁿ Gren.ᵈʳ Guards in a chain of outposts
from Bow Hill on the right to Rooks
he extreme left facing towards Chichester
25th. 1851.

Col.ᵇ Cadogan Gren.ᵈʳ Guards


To Midhurst
6
7
Reserve of Left Wing
Reserve
Picquet
Patrole
Day Sentry
Night Sentry
LAVANT
EAST LAVANT
Turnpike
To Goodwood

To Midhurst
To London
N
W
E
S
Tows Hole Farm
Binderton House
Langford Farm
To Chichester
Coppice
D.S.
C.S.
N.S.
Scale 2 inches to 1 Mile